

Dewar loses his self-rule in argument on devolution

It was uncharacteristic of Donald Dewar to misjudge his man, or his moment. At most times a surfeited politician, in Opposition a shrewd Chief Whip and in Government as sharp-witted a Cabinet minister as they come, the Scottish Secretary can normally be relied upon to choose his words with care. But two intemperate answers at Scottish Questions yesterday suggested that the stress of organising devolution is beginning to tell.

His Tory shadow, Michael

Ancram, made a serious point about Scottish devolution. Mr Ancram, a moderate and gentlemanly Scot, sits for an English seat. Dewar tried a sarcastic put-down, regretting that Ancram was out of touch with Scotland, having lost his seat there. This drew laughs from backbenchers, but mistook its target.

Dewar may come to regret his other jibe. Tam Dalyell is neither ignorant nor ill-intentioned. The veteran Labour MP for Linlithgow is a force to be reckoned with. During

abortive attempts by the last Labour Government to create a Scottish Assembly, Mr Dalyell was among the leaders of the cross-party effort to scupper the plan. He has not declared himself against this Government's proposals, but we know he is sceptical.

Dalyell's method, in this as in any of his parliamentary crusades, is to become an expert on the subject in question, find the weak points in ministers' arguments, and then wear them down with an unceasing barrage of often



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

technical questions. He does not filibuster, he is not long-winded and never rude. He just keeps on asking the questions ministers do not want to hear. Mr Dalyell chips away both at their case and their confidence.

Opinion is divided as to whether he won his long battle with Margaret Thatcher over

which way the Argentine General Belgrano was steaming when British missiles sank her. He certainly made her life a misery.

The jury is still out over whether successive British Governments have been right to blame the Libyans for the Lockerbie bombing, or whether (as Dalyell claims) Libya

has been framed, but there is no doubt that by sheer persistence and minute questioning, he has moved the argument Libya's way. And nobody doubts his role in wrecking Scottish devolution plans in the 70s.

Now Dalyell seems to have got badly under Donald Dewar's skin. He asked Mr Dewar (now it seemed a new building was to be commissioned, rather than an existing one used, for the Scottish Parliament) who was going to pay.

Mr Dewar adopted the lem-

on face he reserves for these occasions. With evident distaste he told Dalyell he was nothing if not "persistent". But "the honourable Gentleman" (he did not, as he should have, call him "my honourable Friend") "has fallen below his normal high standards". Dewar then scolded Dalyell for claiming that any decision had been taken to construct a new building. It had not.

It is unwise, on two counts, ever to accuse Mr Dalyell of not doing his homework. First, he probably has done his

homework. Second, you will provoke him into doing even more homework, and throwing the results at you every time you appear at the Dispatch Box. If this sketch knows the Member for Linlithgow, he will at that moment have resolved henceforward to eat, sleep and breathe the finances of a new building for the Scottish Parliament.

Dalyell spent the rest of the session with his head sunk in his hands, deep in thought. Dewar has not heard the last of this.

Irvine considers curbs on fees of 'fat cat' QCs

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is planning to curb lawyers' fees, by regulating "fat cat" QCs' earnings from legal aid and inflated fees for private work.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, sharply attacked £1 million-a-year lawyers in a speech in the House of Lords on Monday. Yesterday Lord Irvine, who by his own admission was himself a top-earning QC until Labour won the general election, was attacked by a Tory MP over a proposed refurbishment of his official residence at a cost of £650,000.

The Lord Chancellor is re-considering the principle that the "winner takes all". Litigants in the civil courts can recoup most of their costs from the losing side after winning a legal action. Lord Irvine is examining capping how much people can recover, instead.

The move, floated by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, in his civil justice report last year, would indirectly bring pressure to bear on lawyers' charges. If a £2,500 costs limit was set for disputes involving sums up to £10,000, people would be less willing to pay much higher sums in legal fees.

Lord Irvine is also preparing plans which might be included in a Bill during the next session for curbs on the earnings of QCs who can make six-figure sums from criminal legal aid work. This could include setting prescribed rates, as exist for other kinds of legal aid work.

No decisions will be made until Sir Peter Middleton, a former Treasury official, reports on legal aid and civil justice this autumn.

On Monday night, responding to concern expressed by Lord Ackner, the former law lord, that higher court fees were restricting the rights of access of litigants of modest means, Lord Irvine said: "Fat cat lawyers railing at the

inequity of court fees do not attract the sympathy of the public." He spoke scathingly of the "significant number of QCs who earn a million pounds per annum", adding that "many would describe half a million pounds in one year as representing a very bad year for them".

He said it was "staggering" that of the total criminal legal aid budget of £566 million, the top 1 per cent of criminal cases consumed 24 per cent of the total.

Yesterday Gerald Howarth, the Conservative MP for Aldershot, accused the Lord Chancellor of "rank hypocrisy" in making his remarks while planning a reported £650,000 "turfing up" of his House of Lords residence at the taxpayers' expense.

Officials pointed out that the refurbishment, which has yet to be agreed by the Works Committee of the Lords, was part of a project to preserve the fabric of the Palace of Westminster and not a matter of expenditure by Lord Irvine.

Lord Irvine also drew attacks from the Bar, who said that fees earned by a handful of top lawyers (and not the

majority) were irrelevant to the issue of increased court fees and would not affect access to justice for those of modest means.

Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, accepted that some commercial lawyers — both solicitors and barristers, earned high fees which they commanded in the open market. But the real deterrent to people using the courts was court fees themselves, as evidence to the Public Accounts Committee had shown before this year's increases, he said.

He added that QCs' legal aid earnings were approved by taxing masters in the courts as "fair and reasonable", not set by lawyers.

"If the Lord Chancellor wants to reduce these fees significantly, it must follow that a lower level would not be fair and reasonable. Nor would it affect the earnings of the top commercial silks because it is entirely a matter for their private clients how to spend their money."

Yesterday a Law Society spokesman said QCs' legal aid fees were almost unregulated. "There are no prescribed scales for QCs' fees in civil or matrimonial work and they are paid at 'market rates'."

Tony Girling, president of the society, said all lawyers had to accept the principle of "proportionality" in fees. In criminal legal aid, he said, the society's view was that QCs only doing criminal legal aid work should earn the same as a hospital consultant was paid by the health service.

Russell Wallman, head of policy at the society, said it was not opposed in principle to setting a cap on legal costs which litigants could recover but that a fair fee must be ensured.

The furor is likely to fuel the case for a review of the whole QC system.



Irvine: criticised by Conservative MP



The Princess soaking up the sun in St Tropez yesterday

Princess denies she has surprise in store

By ALAN HAMILTON

A TRAIL of confusion was left by Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday as she and her sons continued their holiday with Mohamed Al Fayed.

Her office at Kensington Palace, acting on her instructions, denied that she told reporters on Monday of a forthcoming surprise announcement about her future. The journalists, whom she confronted from a speedboat, believed that she was suggesting she may be planning to live abroad.

Yesterday her London office tried to pour cold water on the speculation: "Her pur-

pose in talking to some journalists was merely to inquire how long they intended to remain in the South of France, as the oppressive media presence was causing great distress to all the children. There was no discussion of the possibility of any statement being issued in the future."

Yesterday the Princess was on the beach in full view of reporters and photographers. She and Prince William and Prince Harry have been staying with the Harrods chairman and his family at his villa in St Tropez.

Catholic girl shot at Protestant boy's home

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN 18-year-old Catholic girl died yesterday after she was shot by a loyalist gunman as she slept at the home of her Protestant boyfriend.

Detectives said they feared that the shooting in the hardline loyalist village of Aghalee, Co Antrim, may have been sectarian. A man was arrested in the village yesterday by armed RUC officers.

Bernadette Martin, who had been going out with Gordon Green for a year, died in hospital after she was shot four times in the head at around 4am by a gunman who entered the house by an unlocked back door. She was asleep in a bed next to her boyfriend's sister. Mr Green was elsewhere in the house. She died yesterday afternoon in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Detectives said they were working on a number of motives for the attack. However, fears grew last night that loyalists may have shot the teenager. Aghalee is close to Portadown, Co Armagh, the base of a new hardline terrorist group known as the Loyalist Volunteer Force.

Aghalee is a notoriously hardline loyalist village. Although Mr Green is popular among Miss Martin's Catholic friends, some of his neighbours frequently shouted sectarian abuse at her.

Miss Martin lived on a mixed housing estate in Craigavon, Co Armagh, about ten miles from her boyfriend's house. The couple met about a year ago at a food processing factory in Lurgan where they worked.

The shooting was hours before loyalist politicians held their first meeting with Tony Blair since the election. Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of the Ulster Defence Association, described the death of Miss Martin as a tragedy.

'New building' for Scottish parliament

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, admitted for the first time yesterday that a new purpose-built assembly might have to be constructed for the planned Scottish parliament. He told MPs that the Old Royal High School building in Edinburgh, the expected site of the new legislature, might not be big enough. Mr Dewar said: "The Government has not ruled out the Royal High School but we are conscious of its shortcomings as a possible site and we want to look at other options."

Mr Dewar also confirmed that the White Paper on Scottish Devolution will be published on July 24, two days after that on Welsh devolution. They had been delayed by disagreement in Cabinet over power sharing.

Sheppard tax call

The Bishop of Liverpool, Dr David Sheppard, yesterday called on the Government to create more jobs and raise taxes to solve the problem of unemployment. In his valedictory address to the General Synod of the Church of England before he retires in September, he said that Christians must be mobilised to act, argue and lobby on "one of the great issues in human affairs".

Paper fined £50,000

The News of the World was fined £50,000 yesterday over an article which caused a criminal trial to be abandoned. The paper was found guilty of contempt of court after a story headlined "We smash £100 million fake cash ring" allowed two alleged counterfeit money dealers to walk free. The paper, working with police, had conducted an investigation and named two men it alleged were master forgers.

BA delays continue

British Airways will not return to normal operations until Monday, more than a week after the end of the three-day strike by cabin crew. With 1,500 cabin crew still off sick, the airline says that it is not able to operate more than 60 per cent of short-haul and 75 per cent of long-haul services from Heathrow. The final cost of the strike is estimated at between £50 million and £200 million. BA turbulence, page 25

Crash mother home

A woman injured in a crash which killed her husband and two young sons has left Basildon Hospital, Essex, with her baby boy who was born just hours after the accident. Sue Cole, 35, suffered multiple injuries in the crash near the family home at Chadwell St Mary, Essex, on June 29. Steven Murray, 25, of East Tilbury, has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving and taking a vehicle.

'Bodies' artist charged

A sculptor and tutor at the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture has been charged with stealing body parts for use in his sculpture shows. Scotland Yard said yesterday, Anthony-Noel Kelly, 41, a cousin of the Duke of Norfolk, from Brixton, south London, and Neil Lindsay, 24, a former mortuary assistant, will appear at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court on August 15.



Tall story for scientists

A gene which may explain why men are generally taller than women has been discovered by scientists. They believe it switches on in boys in puberty, causing growth spurts. It may also control hair growth, muscle weight and fatness. The New Zealand researchers think the gene — STAS3 — may have important implications for treating dwarfism and could be used in farming to boost wool and meat production.

Overalls saved lift man

A worker escaped death when a lift he was working on at the Langham Hilton Hotel in London hurtled into the basement. His overalls caught on a projection in the lift shaft and he came to rest 12 inches from the floor. Southwark Crown Court was told. Hilton International Hotels (UK) Ltd denies failing to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees.

Woodhead orders inspectors to write tougher reports on teachers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS will be graded individually from September under a change to school inspection that will place in doubt the future of thousands of staff.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, announced yesterday that teachers will be judged on a three-point scale in confidential reports to heads. The system would contribute to an acceleration in the dismissal of incompetent staff. Inspectors have proved reluctant to pick out the worst teachers under a scheme introduced last year. The new plans will force them to make judgments on all the lessons they see and head teachers will be given a profile of teaching performance.

About 10 per cent of the lessons observed by inspectors last year came into

the bottom category to be used in the new regime. The figure suggests that far more than the 13,000 teachers estimated by Mr Woodhead to be incompetent will be reported to heads by the time all schools have been inspected again.

Teachers' leaders claimed that the ratings were crude and unfair, aimed at encouraging the dismissal of weak staff. But Mr Woodhead said the grades would add to the management information available to heads and governors. "I think there is a stiffening of the management culture, which will see more teachers who are not up to the job being tackled about their performance," he said. "But this is just one part of the jigsaw for head teachers, albeit an important and absolutely justifiable piece."

The announcement appeared to take

ministers by surprise: there was no mention of the change in last week's White Paper on schools. But Stephen Byers, the Minister for School Standards, welcomed the development as a useful addition to the information for heads.

Mr Woodhead said that heads had asked for the change. But the two heads' associations were split on its merits. The National Association of Head Teachers raised no objections but the Secondary Heads' Association said it strongly opposed any system of personal reports.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, described the proposed grading as crude and unfair. He added: "Any head teacher worth their salt should know what is going on in their school."

Prince and Brown in pleas for young

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Prince of Wales and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last night put the seal on the relationship between the Prince and new Labour when they forged a partnership to help the young unemployed.

appealing to leading businessmen to back them. The two men were brought together by Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive of the Prudential, who is chairman of one of the Prince's charities, Business in the Community, and chairman of Mr Brown's Welfare to Work taskforce.

The joint approach to help youngsters trapped in the dependency culture is believed to have been arranged at two recent meetings between the Prince and Tony Blair. Last night the Prince and Mr Brown did not share a platform for speeches, but they met informally at a drinks reception for more than 200 business leaders, as a joint display of support. The Prince had launched a new awards scheme for companies which invest in communities, and Mr Brown appealed to business chiefs to join his crusade, to offer a new deal, and to second high-flying staff to the employment service to help administer the plan.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

HOME NEWS 3

Fashion world stunned by Versace murder

FROM TUNKE VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK, AND
STAFF REPORTERS

Tributes flow for modest man crowned king of glitz

FRIENDS, models and admirers of Gianni Versace reacted with immense sadness to his death yesterday.

The designer Bruce Oldfield summed up the mood: "This is just not what you would expect in the fashion business, this just doesn't happen. Gianni always went for the grand entrance — the most here I am dress, the sexiest dress that was available. He was uncompromisingly glitzy."

But he added: "He was a modest man and liked to laugh and to poke fun at himself."

Vivienne Westwood said: "Versace's death is a very great tragedy and a deep shock. He was obviously one of the most talented and famous designers of the last few years."

Ermano Ungaro, a confrere, paid tribute to Mr Versace, saying that "Gianni has left his mark on our times with his vitality and joyful way of being. He has enriched all of our worlds. He was a genius in communicating."

Mary Quant described Mr Versace as being "all about life". She said: "His designs were immediately recognisable as rich, glamorous and sexy. He dared to use a strong dash of vulgarity just beautifully. He was a man adored by everyone."

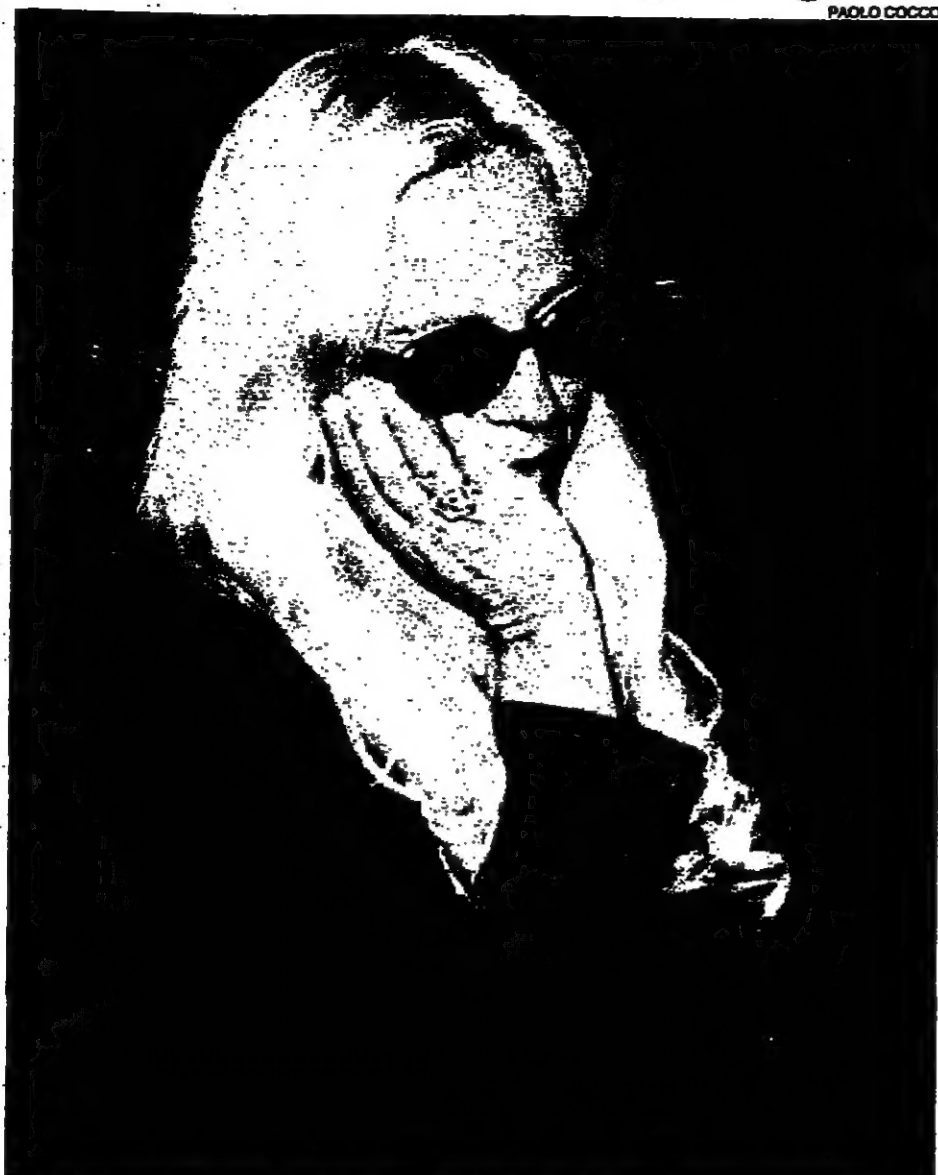
The model Kate Moss said she was "stunned" and "at a complete loss for words". Claudia Schiffer, who also modelled for him, said:

"Words cannot describe how much I will miss him. He was not only a gifted and talented designer who was extraordinary to work with but was also such a wonderful and caring man. He will be missed greatly by all of his friends and everyone in the industry."

Elton John said: "The world has lost a wonderful creative genius, and I have lost a very dear friend."

Elizabeth Hurley, who hurried to fame in a skimpy dress made by the couturier, said that she was going to "miss him terribly". She said: "He was very kind and lovely to me. He will be hideously missed by everyone."

The editor of *Vogue*, Alexandra Shulman, said: "Gianni Versace was one of the most important innovators of the



Donatella Versace, the designer's sister, leaving a hotel in Rome yesterday

century. He understood that fashion must be exciting, glamorous and always new. His death is a great shock and a huge loss to the industry."

Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis Presley, described herself as "completely heartbroken over the tragedy". Ms Presley, who wore more Versace than most people, said: "Gianni was a rare talent, a genius as a designer and, more importantly, a wonderful friend

whose warmth and generosity I will miss terribly."

Boy George, who played the music for Versace's penultimate catwalk show in Milan, said: "I have worked with him on many occasions and he was nothing but a complete gentleman."

Speaking yesterday in New York, Cindy Weber-Clearly, the fashion director for *Glamour* magazine, said: "There is only a handful of designers who really influence and in-

spire the whole fashion community and he was one of the top. He was famous for dressing celebrities and rock stars. They loved him for his colourful, spirited, energetic designs. In fact, he was one of the most knocked-off designers."

Jacques Mouchier, President of the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture, the governing body of French fashion, also mourned Mr Versace's death. He declared: "We admitted him as an unofficial member

of our body, even though he didn't create in Paris. He has really influenced fashion for years now. It was astonishing how he put clothes in focus with his use of models. He beautified women with a touch of modernism."

The British designer Caroline Charles said: "I think that he was a fabulous designer who just got better and better with every season."

"He became more beautiful, more sensual, more exquisite all the time. He knew how to dress a woman. He was one of the few people who knew how to incorporate underwear into stinky little dresses."

She added: "All women longed to wear his clothes, and you really could wear them."

As news of Versace's death spread through the fashion world, mourning fans congregated at his flagship store in New Bond Street, London. Flowers were laid at the doors of the shop which had been closed as a mark of respect. Kerry-Anne Dunner, 22, a fashion student from Tel Aviv, said: "I rushed here as soon as I heard the news. I am devastated. Every stitch I own is Versace."

Robin Dun, 35, a freelance stylist and fashion writer heard the news as he was shopping in New Bond Street. "I met Versace a couple of times. He always struck me as a larger than life character, quite fearsome in a way, dark and brooding," he said. He added: "When someone like that dies it leaves a vacuum. He was not to everyone's taste and but he did things with a boldness and a brashness. You felt like you knew him well through his clothes."

When Versace first appeared on the stage Milan fashion scene in the late 1970s, he made some wine with his bright colors and hip-hugging styles. But the son of a seamstress soon became a favorite with rock and film stars, who loved his ritzy, glitzy clothes. Whether the company can keep generating the glitz without Versace, who was fatally shot Tuesday, is up for debate.

Much speculation will fall on the designer's immediate family: His brother, Santo, is president of the company and his sister, Donatella, helped develop the Versus line.

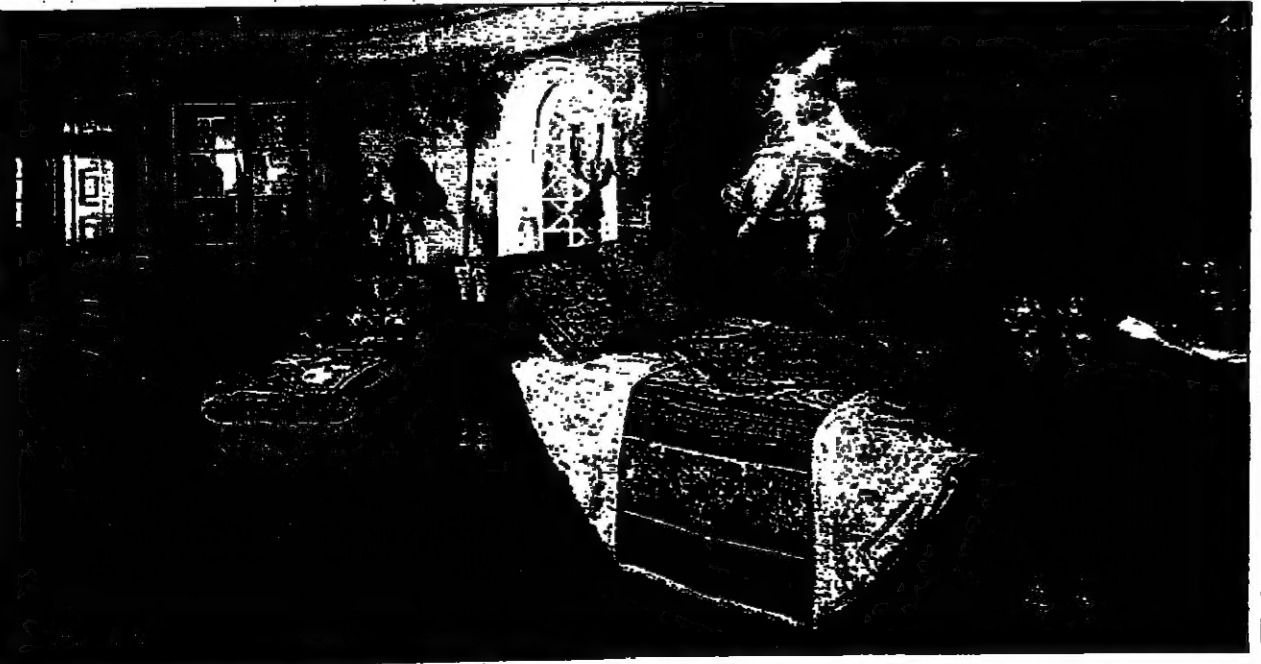
Santo "has to prove himself next year," said fashion industry consultant Michael Swift.



Model of style: Gianni Versace with Claudia Schiffer and Naomi Campbell



Versace with his brother Santo, top left, and sister, Donatella, bottom left, and their families. His home in Miami, above, right and below, was furnished in the extravagant style for which he became famous



Fashion finale may be cancelled

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

TOP models in Rome were last night reluctant to go ahead with the finale of the annual *haute couture* shows on the Spanish Steps tonight.

The Rome Chamber of Fashion Designers and the Rome Chamber of Commerce were meeting to consider cancelling *Donne Sotto le Stelle* (Women Under The Stars) after the murder of Gianni Versace. There were also reports that RAI, the state-run television, was considering cancelling coverage if the event went ahead.

The main Italian homosexual rights group, Arcigay, announced that it was in mourning for Versace, who has been described by Franco Grillini, the group's president, as a hero for having been one

of the first homosexuals among Italian public figures to make known his sexual orientation. Signor Grillini speculated that the murder could have been the work of religious fanatics in America.

Giorgio Napolitano, the Interior Minister, said Italian investigators were trying to determine the exact circumstances of the killing in collaboration with American counterparts. "One fact is certain," he said. "In the United States, as in Europe, there is a great deal of violence, even if the causes of crime are different."

The designer's sister, Donatella, and his brother, Santo, who ran the business side of the Versace empire, left for Miami yesterday after learning of his death. The Versace empire was caught up in the *Mani Pulite* (Clean Hands) crack-

down of the early 1990s on routine corruption in Italian civic life, and Santo Versace is appealing against a conviction for bribing tax inspectors in a case that implicated several of Italy's prominent fashion designers. His younger brother was not charged in the case.

The murder of Gianni Versace is the second death of a major Italian player in the world of *haute couture* in almost as many years. In March, 1995, the fashion magnate Maurizio Gucci was shot dead as he arrived for work at his office in Milan. His two assassins made their escape in rush-hour traffic.

Initially, detectives believed the Mafia might have been responsible. However, last February, Maurizio's ex-wife Patrizia Reggiani was arrested and charged with the murder.

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Royal date for golden couples whose love lasted

Survival secrets of 50-year marriages varied at a special party. Alan Hamilton and Mark Henderson report

EIGHT thousand survivors of one of life's challenges joined the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a special garden party in the grounds of Buckingham Palace yesterday, with no simple formula for staying married for half a century.

In the postwar austerity of 1947, Princess Elizabeth married Lt Philip Mountbatten, RN, handsome but essentially penniless war hero, at Westminster Abbey. To mark their golden wedding, they invited all surviving 1947 couples to apply to join them in the palace grounds.

Of 400,000 couples married in that year, 40,000 applied, and were whittled down in ballots held by local authorities in individual counties. Unsuccessful applicants were sent a royal message of congratulation.

Yesterday's party, blessed with warm, dry weather, was conducted rather more informally than the usual events on the palace lawn. The Queen and the Duke spent longer mingling with the crowds on the lawn as they made their way to the tea tent, where they had a private meeting with 17 couples who married on the same day as themselves — November 20.

No agreed formula emerged for staying together. Tommy Lee, 74, and his wife Dorothy, 71, from Cardiff, said: "You have to have a good row now and again. It clears the air and lets you get on with loving each other."

Beverley McKeever, 74, and

her husband Jimmy, 77, from Glasgow, were not sure of the reason for their success. Mrs McKeever said she had never looked at another man since meeting her husband when she tripped over a ledge at the printing company where they both worked. But Mr McKeever, a veteran of Dunkirk, confessed: "I still look after a nice bit of leg from time to time."

Mrs McKeever interrupted to insist that he could not do that, as she was the boss. "What is really important is that you marry the person you love. If you don't, like Princess Margaret, look how you land up. I felt so sorry for her as she was stopped from marrying the man in her life."

Many couples from the Commonwealth attended the party. Michael Szumlanski, 74, and his wife Joyce, 68, from Ontario, met at the end of the war, she a nurse and he a serviceman being treated for a war wound. Mr Szumlanski said: "I kept badgering her to marry me, but she always said she had to ask her parents. Eventually, on 8 July 1947, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip announced their engagement, and that persuaded her."

Edward and Winifred Holden from Bingley, Yorkshire, met on a blind date at an RAF camp near Blackpool during the war. "I always remembered the advice the vicar gave me, but it was wrong," Mr Holden said. "He said it had to be 50-50 all the time. He was nearly right, but 75-25 to the

wife is always going to work better."

Colin and Freda Smith, from Sutton Coldfield, said they had never had a serious row. "We didn't just jump into it like kids do today," Mr Smith said. "We were courting for two years, and engaged for two. Mrs Smith added: "When you were young in our day, if it didn't work out, you had to work at it or go back to your mum, who wouldn't have you. Girls today have so much more freedom. That's why so many marriages fail."

For the Queen and Prince Philip, whose record of marriage is better than that of any of their children, celebrations continue later in the year. On 19 November, Tony Blair will host a government lunch for them in the Banqueting House, Whitehall, followed by a gala concert in the Royal Festival Hall.

The following day — the anniversary of their marriage — the royal couple will attend a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey, followed by a walkabout, a lunch given by the Lord Mayor of London at Guildhall, and an evening dance at Windsor Castle.

Other planned events include a reception in November to mark the completion of restoration work after the Windsor Castle fire, with 1,500 contractors, craftsmen, and others associated with the work as guests, and a lunch in the House of Lords in December given by the Privy Council.

Leading article, page 19



Their day in the sun: romance still blossoms among couples at the Buckingham Palace garden party yesterday

But we won't be happy ever after in 2047

By IAN MURRAY

FIFTY years from now, barely 33,000 couples are forecast to reach their golden wedding anniversary, compared with this year's estimated 112,000.

The main reason is that there are only three quarters as many marriages, and not only are they much more likely to end in divorce, but many are taking place later in life, often among people marrying for a second time.

When she walked down the aisle, the Queen was 21, which was the

average age for brides in 1947. The average now is 23. In 1947, more than 85 per cent of the brides and grooms were marrying for the first time, compared with 71 per cent today.

There were more than 400,000 marriages in 1947, and about 28 per cent have survived 50 years. Fewer than 300,000 couples will marry this year, and only 11 per cent are expected to be together in 50 years, on current trends. Of those married in 1947, ten per cent have divorced. Of those who marry today, ten per cent will have divorced within five years.

Marjorie Thoburn, head of services

at couples at Relate, the national marriage guidance council, said that couples now enter marriage with a totally different perspective: "Women came out of war work looking for security and wanting to raise a family. Fifty years ago, they lacked the money and opportunities to leave the marriage. Nowadays expectations of life-style are higher because of the influence of television."

Things so often go wrong because couples don't seem to realise that we all change as we get older, and we have to go on adapting. We have had a number of years when 'I want it now'

has been the order of the day. Maybe we don't have the wherewithal to realise that there ain't no such thing as the ideal perfect marriage. We have to modify our expectations to stay together."

The figures ignore the increasing number of people who are choosing to live together. One in five of non-married men and women were cohabiting in 1993, compared with one in seven ten years earlier. One in five of the relationships has lasted for at least seven years.

By the 2040s, there could be a call for golden non-wedding cards.

Wall row ends with £280,000 bill for taxpayer

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN EIGHT-YEAR dispute between neighbours over a collapsed garden wall was finally settled in the Court of Appeal yesterday, at a cost of about £280,000 to the Legal Aid Fund.

Lord Justice Mummery spoke before giving judgment about his disappointment that an action had been pursued where the legal costs "far exceeded" the price of any damages that could have been claimed.

Donald and Audrey Perrin, a retired couple, spent their life savings of £80,000 on lawyers' and surveyors' bills after they were accused by neighbours of undermining a 100-year-old boundary wall with work on their bungalow.

They were granted legal aid last week when their savings ran out so that they could be represented at the appeal. The judges found that the Perrins had nothing to do with damage to the 40ft-long brick wall. They granted an order for costs which means the couple can reclaim the money spent on the appeal and earlier hearings from the neighbours, Richard and Alex Martin, who were on legal aid.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said: "Alas, the burden must fall on to the legal aid fund."

Mr and Mrs Perrin, of Brading, Isle of Wight, yesterday put up Union Jacks and a sign saying "We've Won", but victory was not entirely sweet.

Mrs Perrin, 69, a retired teacher and former mayor, said they would be selling their home to find somewhere "more peaceful".

"We have had to live with this nightmare for eight years. I am relieved that we have not been left destitute, but this has upset me so much I do not wish to stay here," she said. Mr and Mrs Martin, also retired, were not available for comment yesterday.

The wall was damaged during the 1967 hurricane. At Newport County Court last year the Martins were awarded £500 damages and the costs of replacing the wall against Henry and Patricia Butcher, who built the bungalow and sold it to the Perrins in 1968 for £96,000.

Judge Arthur Milson ruled there should be no order against the Perrins after finding that they had done nothing to undermine the foundations of the wall. The Martins appealed against his order, claiming that the wall's foundations were further undermined when the Perrins built a greenhouse next to it.

Ken McEwan, the Perrins' solicitor, said after the hearing: "My clients did not receive any help until their funds had been entirely exhausted by this action. The entire costs of the hearings will now fall on the Legal Aid Fund. We are talking about a figure of around £280,000."



Mrs James: concerned about animals' safety

Farm gate leads to a beastly dispute

By PAUL WILKINSON

A HIGH COURT judge will shortly be asked to decide who owns a roadside grass verge. Does it belong to the senior Barclays Bank executive whose detached house lies at the end of the private road? Or is it the property of the farmer whose land borders the lane on both sides?

Ken James, 49, and his wife Dorothy, 48, believe the fate of their farm could hang on the court's decision, for it will determine whether a gate which keeps their stock off the main road can stay.

They say that over the past four years they have spent £10,000 on legal fees in argument with their neighbour, Bill Dempster, a Barclays area corporate manager based at Newcastle upon Tyne. Part of their court claim is £5,500 which, they say, was the cost of 800 yards of fencing they erected along the road and which, it is alleged, was torn down in 1993 by Mr Dempster's men.

The row flared up again last week when police escorted workmen sent to remove the gate at the end of the lane at Crumlington, Northumberland. Mrs James said: "The policeman said Bill Dempster had sent a letter authorising the removal of our stock-proof gate. He was there to make sure it happened without any problems."

Her husband said: "For a senior bank official to act like this over a gate and some fencing is incredible. To people on the outside this must look ridiculous, but to us it has become very nasty and very bitter."

Mr Dempster and his wife Anthea have put their £275,000 home up for sale. He said: "I own the road and I also own the gateway, but it was not me who tried to have it removed, although I was asked about my ownership of it."

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Killings by mentally ill 'will continue'

Tragedies will recur unless care in community is improved, Alexandra Frean reports

KILLINGS and assaults by mentally ill people will continue unless care in the community is improved, leading mental health campaigners said yesterday.

The warning followed the publication of two independent inquiries which concluded that poor communications between caring agencies and inadequate training were partly responsible for violent acts by two mental patients.

A report by Croydon Health Authority into the case of Gilbert Kopernik-Steckel, who twice discharged himself from a psychiatric hospital, against medical advice, stabbed his mother to death and

committed suicide, blamed "an overwhelming failure of communications" between carers. Terry Hanafin, chief executive of the health authority, said that the deaths "could have been prevented".

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of the mental health charity SANE, said that the case was the worst of its kind she had encountered.

Steckel, 33, an architect, was informally admitted to the mental health unit of the Mayday Hospital in Thornton Heath, south London in January 1996. He walked out the

next day but asked to resume treatment a day later. Later that day he again discharged himself and returned home to South Norwood, where he stabbed his mother and cut his own throat. Mrs Steckel, 57, a teacher, had telephoned the hospital for help before the attack.

The Croydon report recommended that an out-of-hours crisis service be set up to cope with cases, such as Steckel's, which reached a head during weekends or evenings.

Ms Wallace said: "Although [Steckel] was experiencing an acute

and dangerous psychotic episode, not one of 15 people concerned with his care over three days, including four psychiatrists and two social service teams, seemed able to prevent the tragedy."

A separate inquiry published yesterday by Birmingham Health Authority and Birmingham City Council into the police shooting of a mentally ill man who held a supermarket manager hostage at knife-point exonerated the professionals responsible for his care. David Howell was shot by police

last November two days after failing to take a monthly injection to suppress his schizophrenia.

The report made 14 recommendations about improving care, suggesting that the social services department and mental health trusts consider ways of closer collaboration "to ensure there is no danger of duplication or the passing of responsibility". An earlier inquiry into the case found that West Midlands Police had used reasonable force against Mr Howell.

Ms Wallace said: "Inquiry after

inquiry show that lessons have not been learnt and that new measures are vital to ensure immediate care and treatment for those who need it, when they need it."

She criticised the prevailing ideology among carers, which appeared to put the civil liberties of mentally ill patients before the safety of the general public.

40 inquiries under way into blunders

THERE are about 40 inquiries into mental health blunders under way at any one time. Their purpose is to reassure the public and to make recommendations about how the system can be improved.

The inquiries, usually chaired by QCs or eminent doctors, almost always reach similar conclusions about poor communications between agencies, lack of leadership and poor resources. They rarely result in sackings and their findings are not collated by any central government agency.

Recent inquiries include:
 Christopher Clunis stabbed Jonathan Zito to death in December 1992. The inquiry report in February 1994 said that police, social workers, psychiatrists, the

Crown Prosecution Service, hostel staff and the probation service must share the blame.
 Andrew Robinson stabbed Georgina Robinson, no relation, an occupational therapist, in Torquay, Devon, in September 1993. An inquiry said doctors had ignored Robinson's violent behaviour for 15 years and placed too much emphasis on the civil liberties of patients.

Marjorie Mursell, a 35-year-old paranoid schizophrenic, stabbed his stepfather to death in a frenzied knife attack and left his mother barely alive on 28 October 1994.

An inquiry ordered by Camden and Islington Health Authority said that Mursell had been failed by care professionals in a "fundamental and



The subjects of extensive inquiry: Christopher Clunis, Anthony Smith, Wayne Hutchinson, Darren Carr and Stephen Laudat

depressing way".

Stephen Laudat, 26, a schizophrenic, stabbed stranger Bryan Bennett, 59, in a frenzied attack at a centre for mental patients in Newham, east London, in July 1994. An inquiry called for closer co-operation between health and local authorities.

Wayne Hutchinson, a paranoid schizophrenic who was released by mistake, killed two and injured three in Brixton, south London, over Christmas 1994. Lambeth

Community Care Trust ordered an inquiry, which is due to report this year.

Darren Carr set fire to the house of Susan Hearmon, where he was employed as a childminder, killing her and her two daughters, Kylie, six, and Julie Anne, four, on 26 June 1995. An inquiry commissioned by Berkshire Social Services, Oxfordshire Health Authority and Oxford Social Services, published last month called for more medium-secure beds.

Anthony Smith, 24, stabbed his mother and 11-year-old half brother to death in 1995 a month after discharging himself from hospital. An inquiry ordered by Southern Derbyshire Health Trust blamed weak communications and a lack of a clear chain of responsibility among Smith's carers.

Other inquiry reports published in 1997:

Evanna Barry killed his estranged wife Susan in April 1996. Bromley Health Authority

published report in April 1997.

Peter Winship killed his father in July 1996. Nottingham Health Authority report published June 1997.

Paul Smith killed his mother's boyfriend John McCuskey in November 1995. North West Anglia Health Authority report published July 1997.

Reports pending:

Ann Murrie killed unknown victim in February 1994. Anglia and Oxford NHS

region inquiry opened May 1996.

Richard Linford killed Christopher Edwards in November 1994 in Chelmsford prison. Inquiry still sitting.

Peter Horrod killed his wife Brenda in May 1995. Anglia and Harbours NHS have ordered an inquiry.

Norman Dumas killed his mother Eileen McLachlan in July 1995. Inquiry ordered by Newcastle Health Authority.

Compiled with assistance from the Zito Trust and Sane.

Junk mail rings a bell

FOR three days David Petty was haunted by a mysterious ringing. The sound of a telephone interrupted his work, ruined attempts to watch television, disrupted meals, intruded into his sleep and upset his pet rabbit (Lin Jenkins writes).

In search of the source, Mr Petty, 70, dismantled his telephone, disconnected his computer, combed his house during the night and contacted BT and a cable telephone company that had installed

new equipment outside. The ringing continued.

Exhausted by lack of sleep, he contacted the cable company again. When he held the telephone receiver aloft the employee at the other end recognised it as a ringing mailshot sent out to advertise the firm's telephone service.

The mailshot contained a microchip which emitted the sound of a telephone when the card was opened. Peace returned when Mr Petty tracked it down among a pile

of correspondence under his computer keyboard.

"It was an enormous relief. But I was annoyed to discover that it was all down to a piece of junk mail, which I did not want anyway," Mr Petty, of Ipswich, said. "The shrill noise went on 24 hours a day."

Marjorie McFarlane, of East Coast Cable, said thousands of the mailshots had been sent. "We have had a few negative comments, mostly from people leaving the card open accidentally."

Boy caught E. coli from farm goat

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A BOY of 4 who is critically ill with E. coli caught it from a goat at a farm park where children pet the animals. The farm is a popular venue for school trips.

The goat has been destroyed after being found responsible for the infection. Two other children suffered a mild form after visiting the farm at Hertsmere, near Harrow, north London. The owners are keeping the site closed to the public until tests prove that it has been disinfected.

It is normally visited by about 112,000 children a year. The boy is in Great

Ormond Street Hospital for Children, where his condition is described as critical but stable.

After he fell ill, DNA tests on the farm's goats, lambs and calves found that one goat was carrying the bacteria. The farm does not produce food, and it is likely that the three who became ill either touched the infected goat or another animal which had droppings on its coat.

A spokesman from the Health and Safety Executive said: "E. coli is incredibly easy to catch and it is necessary to scrub your hands for at least four minutes after touching an infected animal. Teachers and parents taking children to this

sort of place need to be very aware of the dangers. If they plan to have a picnic on the farm they must ensure that nobody eats until they have scrubbed their hands."

A joint statement by West Hertfordshire, Barnet, Brent and Harrow Health Authorities, Hertsmere Borough Council and the Health and Safety Executive said there was no suggestion that the farm did not have adequate precautions, but further expert opinion was being sought.

The infection is different from the one behind the recent fatal outbreak in Scotland, which was caused by eating meat containing the bacteria.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dead girl's award to be challenged

A health authority has won the right to reclaim compensation paid to a disabled girl who died eight days after winning the settlement. A High Court judge granted Nottingham Health Authority leave to appeal against the award.

Hollie Calladine, 9, was left with a mental age of a few months after being starved of oxygen at birth. She died following a bout of epilepsy in May after the £700,000 award ended a nine-year legal battle. The authority sought a ruling on part of the award made for long-term care.

Shelf life

A shoplifter who admitted stealing a chicken and a bottle of wine asked Gloucester magistrates to consider 2,300 offences after his flat was found piled high with food. Andrew Richards, 39, a factory worker, was remanded on bail for psychiatric reports.

Launderette blast

Eight people were injured after an explosion and fire at a launderette in Cheadle, Staffordshire. The building was gutted and flames spread to parked cars. Three people were being treated last night for severe burns and one was in critical condition.

Sex-change case

Transsexuals have won the legal right to challenge sex discrimination at work. The Employment Appeal Tribunal made the ruling after a sex-change woman's claim of harassment was referred to it by an industrial tribunal.

Car hits nurses

Three 19-year-old nursery nurses on a sponsored walk in memory of a friend who died of meningitis were seriously injured near Littlehampton, West Sussex, when they were hit by a car which skidded on oil and mounted the pavement.

Cats rescued

Jan Webb and her husband, Andy, who adopted a stray cat and three kittens while holidaying in Greece, brought them to Swindon, Wiltshire, at a cost of nearly £3,000 for quarantine and inoculations.

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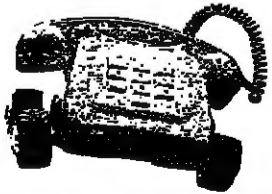
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WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

HOME NEWS 7

Andrews denies inventing story of road-rage killing

Joanna Bale hears accusations of deceit and temper

TRACIE ANDREWS, who repeatedly denied yesterday that she stabbed her fiancé to death with a penknife after a blazing row, was described in court as a woman of deceit with a vicious temper.

On her second day in the witness box, Miss Andrews remained composed under close questioning by David Crigman, QC, about the road-side murder of Lee Harvey. She denied accusations that she had made up a story that Mr Harvey had been killed during a road rage incident, and that she had based it on a row she had in the past.

In front of a packed public gallery at Birmingham Crown Court, Mr Crigman said: "You and Lee had a row. You both stormed out of the car to the back of the car and you had an almighty set-to. In the course of it you got a penknife and you stabbed him time and time again."

Miss Andrews, 28, replied: "No, I did not."

Mr Crigman said that it had been estimated that she and Mr Harvey had been at the murder scene, a country lane near their home in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, for 17 minutes. The first person on the scene had been a man who came out of a nearby cottage to get into his car.

Mr Crigman said: "For any of that 17 minutes, did you make the slightest attempt to alert the occupants of that house?" Miss Andrews replied: "It wasn't until the light came on [outside the house] that I was able to shout for help... Lee was lying on the ground. I did not want to leave him."

Mr Crigman: "If you did not want to leave him, why didn't you put your hand on the horn?" Miss Andrews: "I don't know."

Mr Crigman asked Miss Andrews to account for Mr Harvey's blood on the road at

the back of the car, several feet from where he was found dead.

Miss Andrews: "I didn't see Lee get stabbed. I didn't know anything about him going to the back of the car."

Mr Crigman: "You did see him at the back of the car because that's where you were stabbing him." Miss Andrews: "I did not see Lee at the back of the car. I was not stabbing him."

Mr Crigman: "How did he get the wounds in his back? You have only ever spoken of the man attacking him to his



Tracie Andrews arriving at the court yesterday

face." Miss Andrews: "That's all I saw."

Earlier, Mr Crigman accused Miss Andrews of changing her story about the route taken on their way home from the pub that they had visited on the night he was killed. He said to her: "You are a woman of considerable deceit aren't you, Miss Andrews?" She replied: "No, I'm not."

She said that she found it hard to show the police the route she and Mr Harvey had taken because it brought back bad memories. Mr Crigman: "You were shocked at the

realisation at how vicious your temper had become, weren't you?" Miss Andrews: "I have not got a vicious temper."

He asked her about a series of violent rows that she and Mr Harvey had had in the months before his death. She admitted that she had bitten Mr Harvey's neck during a row in a nightclub in which he held one of her wrists and refused to let go.

Mr Crigman: "When your teeth were in his neck, how did you feel about him?" Miss Andrews: "I was angry with him." Mr Crigman: "It must require a real intensity of feeling to put your teeth into someone's neck. It's no mild emotion, is it?" Miss Andrews: "People do do things. Lee has done things to me."

Mr Crigman: "It was exactly the same intensity, but magnified by everything that followed, that led you to put a knife in his neck, isn't it?" Miss Andrews: "No."

Mr Crigman accused Miss Andrews of basing her "fictitious" story about the road rage incident on real experiences. He said: "You invent people and then you introduce bits and pieces of your life experience." He described an incident in which she had argued with another driver after colliding with the back of his parked car. "This is what you used as your little fiction base," Miss Andrews: "There is nothing of any similarity whatsoever."

She said that the male friend who was in her car on that occasion had got out to argue. She denied that she had driven off with the other driver clinging to the bonnet. She admitted that Mr Harvey had once owned a black F-registered Ford Orion and said it was "just circumstantial" that the man she had alleged killed him last December was in a black F-registered Ford Sierra. The trial continues.



Policemen on duty outside Downing Street acted to avert any threat from Humphrey the cat yesterday after a duck and her brood from St James's Park took a wrong turning and ended up outside No 10, where Humphrey lives



Unruly brood ducks out of No 10

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A DUCK and her 17 ducklings severely tested Downing Street security yesterday after losing their way.

The duck had taken a wrong turning in St James's Park, missing the path to Duck Island at the eastern end of the lake, before bringing traffic to a halt by crossing Horse Guards Road with her brood in single file.

Oblivious to the threat from Humphrey, the No 10 cat, who has been alleged to have a taste for ducks, mother and family then waddled up the driveway at the back of the Foreign Office, and ended up climbing the stone steps at the rear of the most famous street in the capital, some 200 yards from home.

Fearing that mother and ducklings would perish under the wheels of the traffic, if not Humphrey's jaws, if they carried on into Whitehall, officers from the Diplomatic Protection Group on duty outside No 10 took immediate action.

For ten minutes they ran around outside the famous black door, trying to catch the anxious family one by one in their helmets.

One officer said: "It wasn't very dignified but all in the line of duty. The first thing we all said to each other was 'Oh no, where's Humphrey?' Fortunately he was nowhere to be seen."

The ducks were handed over to a park warden who took them back to the park in a cardboard box.

A spokesman for the Royal Parks said: "Humphrey often comes uninvited into St James's Park. We certainly do not encourage him. Our ducks have to be protected. 'We have our own cat, Scrounger, who normally manages to keep him at a certain distance. That's how we like him.'"

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Student in sex case had made earlier claim

Woman accusing professor of harassment had rejected lie detector test in other complaint. Kathryn Knight reports

A STUDENT who accused a philosophy professor of indecently assaulting her after a garden party had made a similar allegation against a man in America three years earlier, a court was told yesterday.

Miss Y, who together with her friend, Miss X, alleges that John Cottingham kissed and fondled her in his teaching room at Reading University, had complained to police of being sexually assaulted while on holiday in 1993. Reading Crown Court was told that the case was dropped after the student, now 24, refused to participate in a lie-detector test. Under questioning from Sandra Stanfield, for the defence, Miss Y admitted she had made a complaint against a man she had met in a nightclub. Asked why she had refused to undergo a taped interview monitored by lie-detecting equipment, she said: "I speak the truth, first and foremost and at that time I was alone in the US and I was really frightened. My parents were telling me to come home."

Miss Stanfield suggested to Miss Y that she was lying, as her brother was with her at the time. "We are not particularly close," Miss Y replied. She denied she had made a complaint of indecent assault in England a few years earlier.

The jury has been told that Professor Cottingham, 53, a leading authority on Descartes, invited the two women, then aged 23 and 21, to his room after meeting them at a garden party last year. He had kissed and fondled them after making references to owning a cane. He was alleged to have unzipped their dresses and touched their breasts, removing Miss Y's bra and tights.

Asked why at no point had she asked him to stop, Miss Y said both she and Miss X were shocked and frightened, and thought they were locked in his room. "We were petrified,"

He had been talking about canes and whips and chains. We were worried about getting out of the room alive. He had been talking about de Sade, and the only thing I knew about him was he was a pervert who killed people."

Miss Stanfield said that in Miss Y's statement to the police, given an hour after the alleged incident, there was no mention of her fear that the door was locked, or of Professor Cottingham saying he had a cane.

Miss Y said she had been shocked and confused at the time and had been unable to

shook her head and said that was not true.

Earlier, under examination by Simon Draycott, for the prosecution, Miss Y compared the incident to being in a car crash. "I felt as if I was in a car accident and everything was in slow motion. I didn't even feel I was there, it was as if it was happening to someone else. I was very shocked... It was like my grandad or something."

Asked if she had welcomed Professor Cottingham's attentions, she replied: "Not at all. He was a lecturer and I had no reason not to respect any of my lecturers. I had no idea he was that way inclined."

The court also heard from a porter at the university who said he had heard the two young women running along a corridor from Professor Cottingham's room and then found them in a distressed state while on his night patrol. Andrew Campbell said the two women had approached him saying they needed to retrieve some items from the professor's room.

"One was in a state, crying, a bit shaky. The other was also in a state but in a bit more control. At one point when I was talking to them they were clinging to one another, trying to comfort one another."

He said he had gone to the professor's office to retrieve some of the women's missing items and had picked up a bra, a pair of tights and black shoes. The professor had appeared "surprised and embarrassed". There was a bottle of whisky on the table and "there appeared to have been some kind of social occasion".

Shortly after escorting the women to the security office, a ruffled Professor Cottingham had approached him near the lodge. He had said: "Was there a problem? They were fine when they left."

Professor Cottingham denies two counts of indecent assault. The case continues.



Cottingham: a leading authority on Descartes

remember every detail. She had found that some missing links had since come back to her.

"Is that why in your statement you said you had no idea how your brassiere came to be off or your tights removed?" Miss Stanfield asked. Miss Y replied: "Yes."

Miss Stanfield suggested that the friends had performed a "vamping act" like a "teasing striptease" to titillate the professor. She put it to Miss Y that she had kissed Miss X, saying they were interested in sex of all kinds and had had hundreds of men. Miss Y



Susan Constable yesterday: found her own man

Dating agency 'kept finding Mr Wrong for lonely widow'

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE widow had a clear idea of the type of man she wanted to meet for a new relationship: a non-smoker, ideally living locally, and able to take her and her children out for drives in his car. In her search for Mr Right, it seemed a good idea to join a dating agency which promised to "take great care to study your individual requirements".

Instead, Susan Constable, 39, was offered a series of Mr Wrongs, a court was told yesterday. They included six heavy smokers, a man who could not drive because of his bad eyesight, and finally a

man who lived almost 200 miles away and was scared of driving. When she complained, she says that the agency Initial Approach cancelled her membership and refused to give her a refund. Mrs Constable, from Greenloaning, Perthshire and Kinross, is now bringing a small claims action for her £376 fee. Her husband Peter, a surveyor, died three years ago from a brain tumour, leaving her with two children. Mrs Constable told Stirling Sheriff Court that the divorcee who ran the agency, Sandra Menoni, 47, had been charming when she joined.

"I filled in the form and said I wanted a non-smoker or an occasional smoker who lived near by or was prepared to drive to see me." She was sent about 14 profiles of potential companions, met five or six, and had a short relationship with one. "None of them was the kind of man I was looking for, and I don't think I was what they wanted either. I was offered six who were heavy smokers, another who lived in the north of Scotland and said he was too frightened to drive, and

another had such bad eyesight that he couldn't see to drive. They were sending me details of men I had nothing in common with."

A proportion of the membership fee was for social gatherings at which clients could meet. Mrs Constable said that she was unable to attend a Burns Supper because the weather was too bad and police were advising people to stay at home, but Mrs Menoni refused to refund the cost.

Mrs Constable, who represented herself in court, said: "I started in January last year and by August I had had

They sent me details of men I had nothing in common with?

enough. I asked them for a proportion of my money back, but they sent me a letter cancelling membership."

She alleges that the terms of the contract were unfair because the company could cancel membership of anyone it deemed unsuitable without offering a refund. Sheriff Robert Younger heard that Initial Approach is being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading after a complaint. In its leaflets, the company says: "Initial Approach will take great care to study your individual requirements, considering the information you gave us in your personal profile."

Tom Murray, for the company, said it had fulfilled its obligation to provide four introductions over a year. The agency had made it clear that some were smokers.

The case was adjourned until August 12. Outside court, Mrs Constable said: "I hope if I win, it will encourage everybody else who is unhappy with the service dating agencies provide to fight back." She now has a relationship with a man she met independently.

Women shoppers attacked by Rolex robbers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THREE businesswomen on a trip to London were attacked by a gang of "Rolex raiders" as they returned to their holiday flat from shopping in Harrods, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

One of the women was dragged along the ground as the robbers ripped a Rolex off her wrist. Another of the women was also attacked for her watch. The other woman escaped attack.

The gang fled with a Rolex watch worth £7,000, a second Rolex worth £2,000 and a handbag worth £500 in cash. Their victims were treated for bruises, cuts and shock.

Scotland Yard has already warned shoppers in central London about the dangers of wearing expensive jewellery and watches in public places. Since last September there have been 250 attacks in central London, often involving gangs stalking victims. A team of 40 officers is working on the attacks.

In the latest robbery, two of the women are middle-aged and the third is in her twenties. The women, who were all Asians, came to London on holiday and business and stayed at the flat of friends in St John's Wood. The attack happened after the three women had spent Sunday afternoon shopping in Knightsbridge. They spent several hours at the Harrods sale and then travelled to Queensway for supper.

Police believe the women were probably targeted on the Underground at Queensway. The gang of five or six youths followed them on the Tube as they headed north. When the women got out at St John's Wood station, they came after them. As the women turned into the car park of the flats, the gang pounced. As they ran off, they discarded outer clothes to disguise themselves.

Four men were later arrested at South Hampstead railway station after police were alerted by a passing driver. Yesterday detectives said four men had been released on police bail, and appealed for witnesses.

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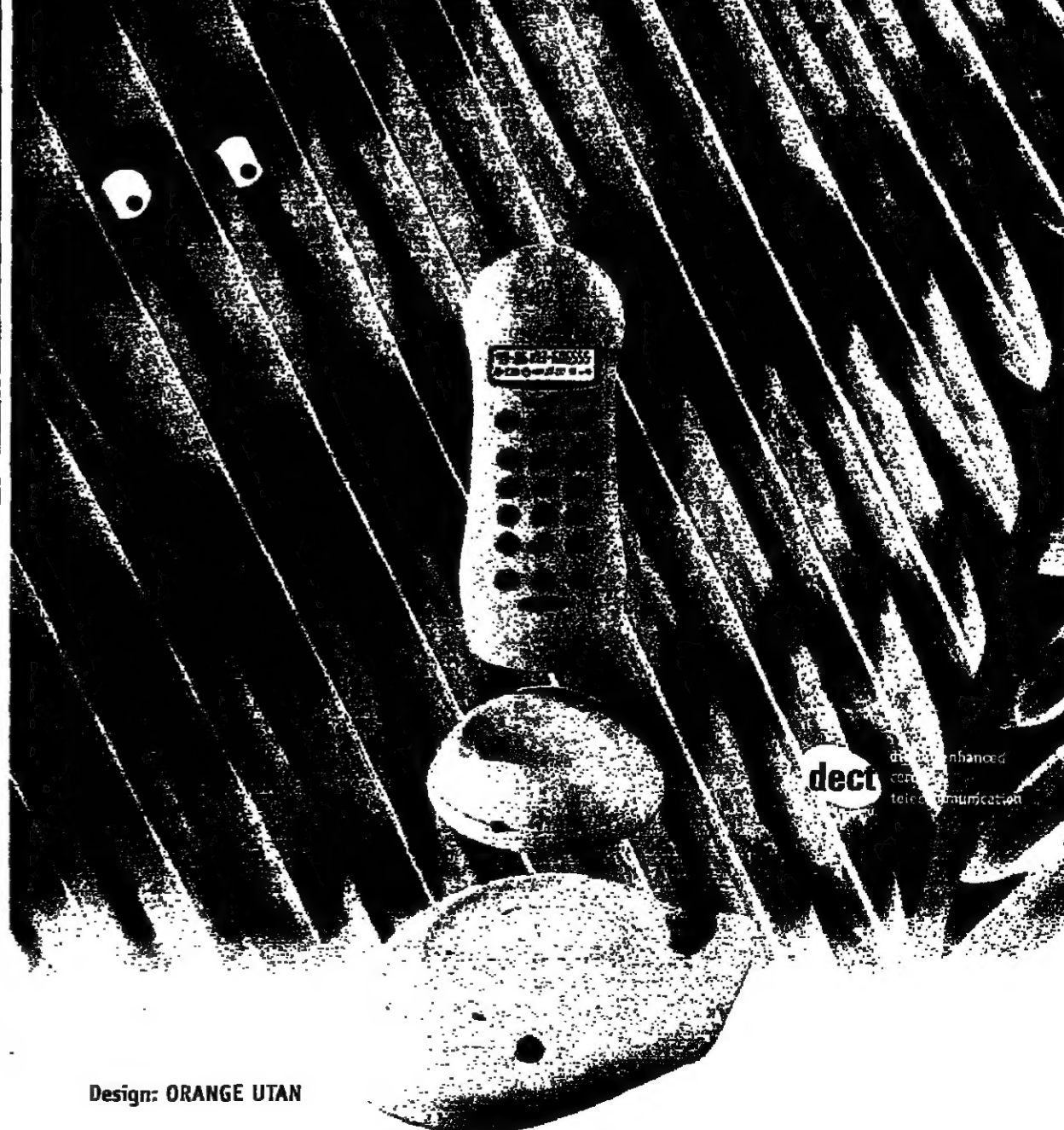


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MAGAZINE

Britain promises action on beef at home and abroad

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

BRITAIN promised the European Union yesterday that it would crack down on beef exports in breach of the world-wide ban, but also gave warning that it would block imports from the Continent that failed to meet British standards.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, made the points to the European Parliament's BSE committee at a conciliatory session that broke with the hostility that coloured the previous Government's contacts with the body. Douglas Hogg, the previous minister, refused to come to answer the committee's questions.

"We are totally committed to the principles of openness and transparency," Dr Cunningham told the committee, which applauded his remarks. Lavishing compliments on key members, he also invited the committee to visit Britain.

Tackling the fraudulent sales of British beef, Dr Cunningham said: "I am deter-

mined to crack down hard on anyone who runs risks with human safety." The Prime Minister had agreed to give new powers to British enforcement authorities to put an end to illegal traffic, he said. "We are looking at very sophisticated, criminal fraud that has gone beyond the EU itself."

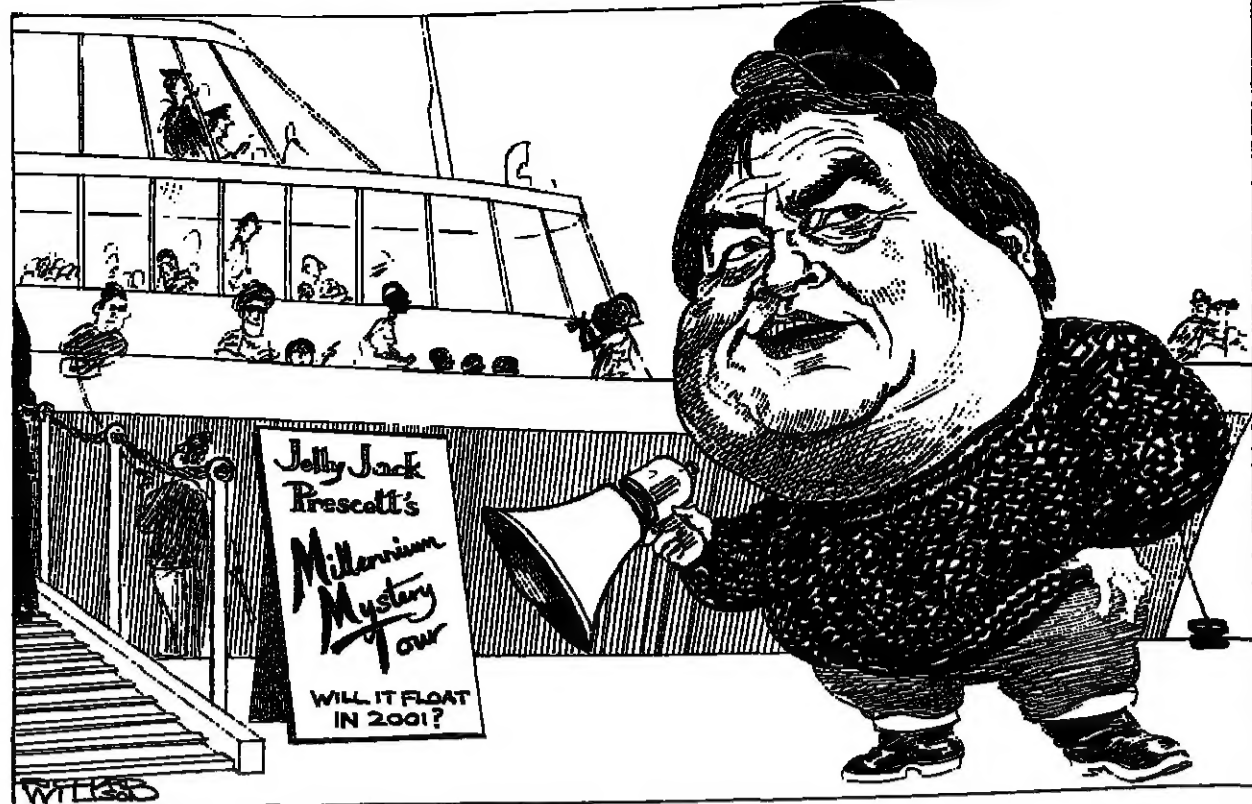
The Government announced on Monday that it was closing two meat processing plants. Word this month from the EU Commission that British beef was being illegally exported triggered a new wave of hostility across the Continent towards the United Kingdom. Politicians and the media are accusing the British authorities of conniving in the illegal exports. The EU Commission is planning legal action against London for the alleged failure to apply adequate controls.

Emma Bonino, the Commissioner for consumer safety, said that some 1,600 tonnes

of beef had gone to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Poland, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt and Russia.

Dr Cunningham confirmed that the new Government would not withdraw an action against the EU's worldwide ban at the European Court of Justice. "It's going to be an important test of the legality of the ban."

At the same time, Britain expected the rest of the EU to live up to the standards that it had set for it. Spain, Germany and other EU states are resisting a move by the Commission to enforce the same slaughterhouse measures on the removal of suspect material on the Continent as applied in Britain. Dr Cunningham denied earlier reports that he planned an outright ban on imports but said he would "ensure that imports have been given the same rigorous treatment on the removal of specified materials as beef in the UK".



Prescott launches river bus scheme

BY JILL SHERMAN

JOHN PRESCOTT is championing a proposal for ten new piers and seven new boats on the Thames to secure a lasting river bus system as a legacy of the

Millennium Experience. The Deputy Prime Minister, who is determined to revitalise the Thames, is keen to ensure that the new service fares better than its predecessors, which failed through lack of cash. The piers are expected to be

funded partly through money from the Millennium Experience, but Mr Prescott is also hoping for local authority money and private sector sponsorship.

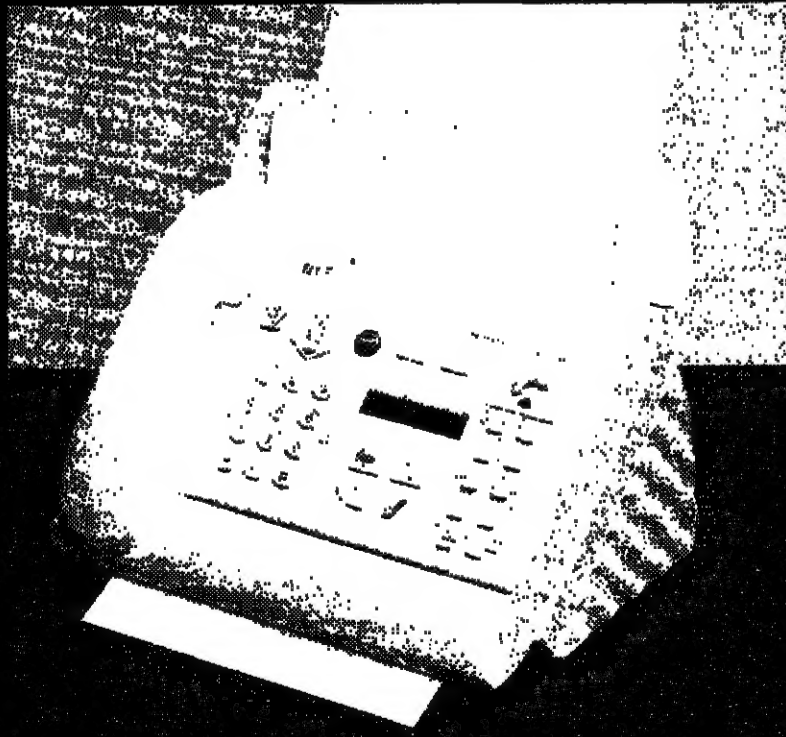
Some of the piers are to be built close to London's finest restaurants, such as the Savoy and the Oxo Tower on the South Bank, and Mr Prescott is expected to call at their door for sponsorship money. The service will be primarily targeted at tourists and the Deputy Prime Minister is proposing to use through-ticketing to link the river to other forms of public transport.

The river bus will start at

Battersea Power Station and go to Greenwich village and possibly on to City Airport. Two piers are already planned for The Globe theatre and the Millennium Experience site at Greenwich. But Mr Prescott has proposed eight other piers, to add to the existing 14. The new piers are proposed at the Tate Gallery, Hungerford Bridge, Blackfriars, the Savoy, the London Bridge-New Fish Wharf, Battersea, the Millennium Wheel and the Oxo Tower.

Mr Prescott has had talks over the past ten days with the Cross River Partnership, London First and the Port of London Authority.

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Water companies warned on leaks

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WATER companies were warned yesterday that plugging leaks will have to come before making a profit under the national water strategy being prepared.

Ministers told the companies, some of which lose more than 30 per cent of their supplies through leaks, that the maximum such wastage allowed under new legally binding rules will be set at 10 or 15 per cent.

In a report published yesterday, the Office of Water Services' national customer council accused firms of putting shareholders before customers. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that the "scandal" of water losses and high profits had to end. He announced that water companies in England and Wales had agreed to the Government's ten-point plan, which includes offering a free leak detection and repair service for customers' pipes. Of

the estimated third of water lost through leaks, about a quarter is from pipes that link company mains to houses.

He praised the companies for their greater efforts towards water efficiency in homes. But he said that if they chose to "waffle" rather than meet the 10-point plan the Government would use its "firepower". He said: "I shall be looking for sustained commitment."

Ian Byatt, director general of the Office of Water Services, has been asked to set mandatory leak targets that will require the companies to reduce wastage each year.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30am, backbench debates. From 2.30pm Welsh questions; Prime Minister's Questions; Finance Bill committee; backbench debate on drug and alcohol abuse in prisons. In the Lords: debate on schools' role in preparing young people for adult life, including parenthood; proposed probation service cuts.

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Libby Clark

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Haughey's accountant blamed over £1.3m gift

The former Irish Prime Minister says he knew nothing about his personal finances during his time in office. Audrey Magee reports

THE former Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey blamed his accountant yesterday for organising illegal payments of £1.3 million from a supermarket tycoon to support his lavish lifestyle while in office.

At a hearing of a tribunal investigation into payments to politicians, Mr Haughey tried to absolve himself of any responsibility for the money. He said that he had entrusted all his personal finances to his accountant and friend Des Traynor, who died of cancer three years ago.

Mr Haughey, an accountant by training and a former Finance Minister, said that he never questioned Mr Traynor about the source of the money that helped to maintain his Dublin mansion, racehorses, yacht and privately owned island off the coast of Co Kerry. Describing himself as a "naïveté" accountant, Mr Haughey said: "My private finances were peripheral to my life. I had Mr Traynor look after all that. My work was my lifestyle. When I was in office, I worked every day, all day. There was no room for an extravagant lifestyle."

Mr Haughey said that it was not until 1993, one year after being forced from office, that he became aware that he had received £1.3 million from Ben Dunne, the former chairman of

the Dunnes Stores supermarket group. Mr Haughey said that no political favours were granted in return for the money. Mr Dunne said that he gave the money to help clear Mr Haughey's debts because he "felt sorry for him".

The payments were made through an elaborate network of overseas bank accounts between 1987 and 1991 while Mr Haughey was Taoiseach. The final payment was made in November 1991 when Mr Dunne called to Mr Haughey's home on the outskirts of Dublin. Mr Dunne handed Mr Haughey three bank drafts totalling £210,000 and made out to fictitious names. Yesterday Mr Haughey agreed that the payments were made but said he did not remember receiving the money from Mr Dunne.

The appearance at the tribunal in Dublin Castle is a source of severe embarrassment to Mr Haughey, who for two decades refused to answer questions about the funding of his wealthy lifestyle. Hundreds of people turned up to hear him give evidence. Many queued overnight.

Mr Haughey avoided media attention by arriving shortly after 7am, three hours before the hearing started. His fiancée Páil supporters applauded as he left the tribunal but

were quickly drowned out by crowds booing, hissing and shouting abuse. Mr Haughey, 71, apologised for lying to the tribunal and said that his tax affairs were in order. He made an opening statement admitting everything but was nonetheless shamed when Denis McCullough, counsel for the State, displayed his letters of lies and denials. Only last week, after months of work by the tribunal, did Mr Haughey admit that he had received the money.

Mr Haughey is now likely to face a tax bill of at least £750,000. He could also be jailed, although that is unlikely. Political opposition parties are demanding a new inquiry into his wealth to establish whether anyone else made payments to him while he was Taoiseach.

Allegations of corruption were made against Mr Haughey throughout his political life. In 1970, he was accused of conspiring to import arms for the IRA and in 1991 it was alleged, and denied, that he was a member of a "Golden Circle" getting rich on State assets.

Mr Justice Brian McCracken, chairman of the tribunal, is expected to file his report to the Government next month and the Dail will be recalled from the summer recess to discuss his findings.



Charles Haughey after giving evidence to the tribunal yesterday. As he left Dublin Castle he was booed by angry crowds

Court convictions are rising, says prosecution chief

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Director of Public Prosecutions has responded to claims that fewer criminals are being convicted with new figures showing a substantial increase.

The proportion of convictions after contested hearings rose from 55 per cent in 1991-92 to 60 per cent in 1996-97, Dame Barbara Mills, QC, said. She was careful not to point the finger directly or to say that the Crown Prosecution Service was being wrongly blamed. But she added: "We can only prosecute such cases as we get from the police."

She said that the mix of cases had slightly changed, and that this year the CPS had received fewer less serious cases while the number of more serious cases had risen by 3 per cent.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Sir John Morris, the Attorney General, have set up a review into the policies and procedures of the CPS because of concern over a fall in convictions. But CPS officials yesterday indicated that the blame for that lay at the door of police, who were bringing far fewer cases. Brian Spear, a senior CPS

official, said: "We are dependent on the police for the cases they bring to us — we can't bring cases out of a hat. So if the number of cases they pass to is falling, clearly we can take fewer cases forward."

The police "clear-up" rate had dropped from 35 per cent of all recorded offences ten years ago to 26 per cent of all recorded offences, he said.

The CPS annual report, published yesterday, showed that 1.3 million cases were handled in the magistrates' court, where a conviction rate was achieved of 75 per cent in contested cases. In the Crown Court, 114,540 cases were dealt with, with a 60 per cent conviction rate.

The CPS announced the findings of two pilot studies to fast-track cases through the courts. In Plymouth, after more than one year and an average of 24 child abuse cases, the time between charge and trial has been halved to some 13 days.

In the second, dealing with minor traffic cases in Gloucestershire and Lancashire, the time from date of offence to concluding the court case has been halved.

Plenty of work awaits horde of new MPs

IT IS time for all those new MPs to do some work in Parliament apart from just voting. The select committees are, indeed, being set up this week and more than 100 of the new MPs will serve on them, roughly 40 per cent of their total membership. There is plenty for them to do.

The committees have in the past made a virtue of their diversity, spending a long time on in-depth policy inquiries at the expense sometimes of scrutinising administration and expenditure. Some committees, like Defence and Social Security, have been assiduous at the latter, but the coverage has been patchy.

However, a Government with a huge majority and a distant attitude towards Parliament should constantly be held to account by the Commons. The new committees might make a start with the multitude of reviews that ministers have announced. While protecting the confidentiality of civil service advice, the committees should ask for papers on the options being considered. This applies particularly to the most important of them all, the comprehensive spending review. Individual departments are due to produce papers on their own activities by the autumn, as part of the Treasury-run exercise.

There is obviously a particular role for the Treasury committee, which is likely to be chaired by the experienced Giles Radice. It has a long possible agenda — the new arrangements for monetary policy and the Bank of England, the proposals for overhauling City regulation, monitoring how the money from the windfall levy on the utilities is spent, and revamping the Private Finance Initiative, let alone the single currency. But the committee should make a priority of the comprehensive spending review, seeking regular reports over the next year from Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary, about the long-term cost of existing programmes and the options for savings. This will be a real test of the Government's much repeated

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

promises about opening up decision-making.

The Social Security Committee should look at the options on the pensions review and could turn the tables on its long-serving former chairman, Frank Field, over welfare reform. This committee contains several MPs who know a lot about these issues — Patricia Hewitt, Chris Pond, Gisela Stuart and Malcolm Wicks. The Jumbo Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee should try to penetrate the fog over the Government's policy towards injecting private finance into the London Underground (without calling it privatisation). The Foreign Affairs Committee should look at the allegations about collusion between British ministers and China over Hong Kong in the late 1980s, as well as enlargement of the European Union.

The committees' membership is a good mixture of the old and the new, though it is a pity that the list includes only four of the 17 former members of the Major Government who are still in the Commons and not in the William Hague team. Several of the newcomers, such as Charles Clarke, Tony Colman and Ruth Kelly on the Treasury committee, will quickly outshine some longer-serving colleagues.

Diane Abbott has tried to take in the gullible with her protests about being excluded from the Treasury Committee. But that is nonsense since it is quite normal for people to move from one committee to another and she has been put on the equally important Foreign Affairs Committee. If the Labour whips had wanted to exclude potential critics, they would not have put Brian Sedgemore on the Treasury Committee. But Ms Abbott, who is regarded as tiresome and unreliable by most of her colleagues, is adept at gaining publicity for herself, particularly ahead of the annual elections to Labour's NEC.

PETER RIDDELL

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Tim Jarman, shot in the head in his flat last month

Foreigners quit Mongolia after murder of Briton

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN ULAN BATOR

LAST MONTH'S murder of a popular British aid expert in Mongolia has prompted some foreign residents to pack up and go home, while those left behind are plagued by nervousness and confusion.

Tim Jarman's death, aged 50, has dented the reputation of Ulan Bator as a relatively safe haven whose people are generally friendly to Westerners. Many people are avoid-

ing the Top Ten disco where Jarman, an agricultural consultant with the Asian Development Bank, spent some time on his last night alive.

But one consultant said: "There is no panic, and only a few people have left, but others will continue to feel uneasy until arrests are made and they know what caused this tragedy."

Mongolian police say that Jarman, who came from Bath, where his wife and two daughters live, was shot in his flat at about 3.30am on June 21. They say the cause of death was a

small-calibre bullet that had entered his left temple. Reliable sources say the weapon was a sawn-off hunting rifle, but no trace of it has been found, ruling out suicide.

While some sources indicate that a video recorder was taken from Jarman's flat, where he lived alone, sums of money, credit cards and other valuables were untouched.

Rumours abound that the murder may have involved a Mafia-style killing connected with \$17.5million (£10.1 million) that the Asian bank

had disbursed here. Some speculate that Jarman might have detected official corruption in connection with these funds.

Other theories are that he may have been involved with a woman, foreign or Mongolian. But, although he had female friends and had escorted two of them to their flats before he died, he was not conducting any obvious relationship. "By the standards of most consultants, Tim Jarman was verging on sainthood," said one acquaintance. "He was not

known to be involved with anyone. He was a perfect gentleman."

A coroner's inquest into Jarman's death was adjourned in Bath on July 25, to allow for the funeral on July 25. Sally Jarman, his wife, said she was pressing the Foreign Office for a copy of the Mongolian police report. "I am as much in the dark as anyone else, but I have no reason not to trust the Mongolians. They have not been particularly informative, or helpful, but they have been very thorough," she said.

British-based firms gave most in US election

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BRITISH-based companies, including BP, Glaxo Wellcome and NatWest, gave more money to the last American elections than companies from any other country. It has emerged as the row builds over foreign influence in the most expensive presidential race in US history.

American subsidiaries of British companies gave \$4.3 million, more than a third of the \$12.5 million injected by companies whose headquarters are outside the United States, according to the first detailed analysis of foreign donations. Three-quarters of the British money went to Republicans — who control Congress and are traditionally the party of big business — and \$1 million to Democrats.

Using US subsidiaries to circumvent the ban on foreign donations to election campaigns is legal, but has become controversial as both parties have traded accusations of foreign influence. The Democratic National Committee announced in February that it would no longer accept campaign contributions from US subsidiaries of foreign companies.

In February, President Clinton attacked the Republicans for not joining in the pledge.

"They raise more foreign money. And we take all the heat," he said.

The Republican National Committee has said that donations from US subsidiaries are "perfectly legal" and has questioned whether the Democrats will follow through on Mr Clinton's pledge.

Brown & Williamson Tobacco, owned by BAT Industries, was the largest British-controlled donor, giving \$1,003,998 to Republicans and \$85,000 to Democrats, according to the study by the Centre for Responsive Politics, a bipartisan Washington research group.

The study, derived from Federal Election Commission data, identifies 128 US subsidiaries of 93 foreign-owned companies which gave money in the November 1996 elections. The top donors were US subsidiaries of Seagram, the Canadian conglomerate (\$2,189,720); BAT, and the Australian News Corporation (\$929,859).

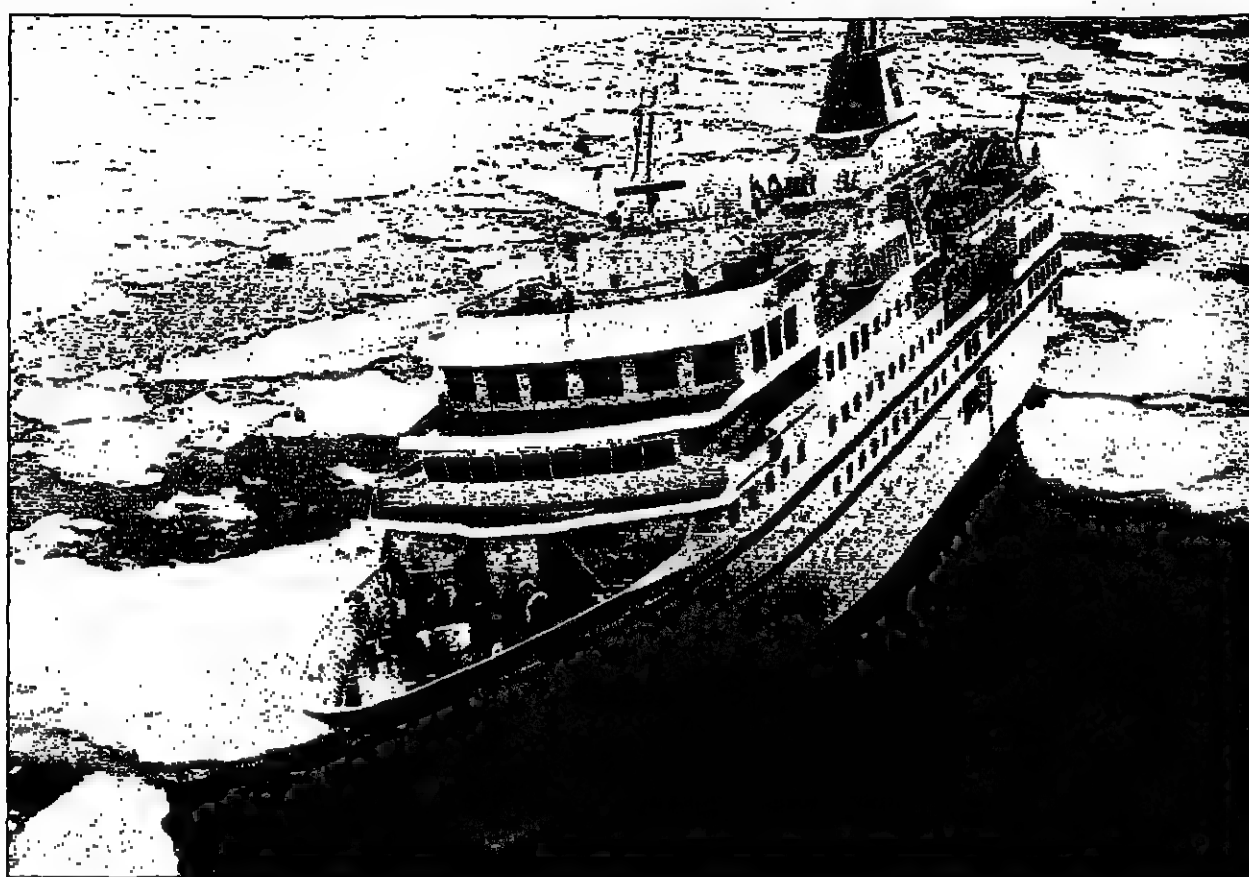
The list of donors is dominated by pharmaceutical companies such as Glaxo Wellcome (\$921,454); Zeneca (\$325,247); SmithKline Beecham (\$304,950), and media and tobacco companies. Legislation affecting all these industries has figured prominently in Congress.

Other British-controlled companies which donated cash include Holiday Inns (owned by Bass) which gave \$56,500; Blue Circle (\$33,000); British Petroleum (\$355,929); Cable & Wireless (\$75,000); Guinness (\$50,000); Grand Metropolitan (\$211,782); ICI (\$176,450); NatWest (\$130,000), and the Rank Organisation (\$80,000).

The report also shows that two Swiss companies — C S Holdings and Roche — ranked fifth and sixth, contributing \$507,100 and \$370,093. The Japanese Sony Corporation was the tenth largest, splitting its \$300,000 almost equally between Republicans and Democrats.

The row about campaign finance, which has engulfed the White House since the last election, and to a lesser extent the Republicans, has centred on whether foreign governments or companies tried to influence the poll's outcome.

Direct donations by foreign governments, companies or individuals are illegal. But donations from US subsidiaries are allowed, provided that the US company makes the decision independently and supplies the money itself.



The German cruise liner *Hanseatic* listing after running aground off Norway's Svalbard archipelago

Luxury cruise captain aground again

BY DEBORAH COLLETT

THE Norwegian coastguard last night had to abandon an operation to free a luxury German cruise liner stuck in thick ice after the captain ran her aground for the second time in a year.

Captain Hartvig von Harling stranded the 9,000-tonne *Hanseatic* in a fjord off the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard with 260 people, including 145 mainly German tourists. Ten

months ago the captain hit a sandbank in icy seas off the northwest Canadian coast, ending a cruise through the Arctic. This time his ship is wedged in an area where another vessel was stuck last August for a week.

None of the passengers was hurt as the *Hanseatic* ran onto the rocks late on Sunday and there was little damage to the hull of the liner, which has 88 luxury suites.

Elisabeth Aarsaether, spokeswoman for the Governor's office on Svalbard which is co-ordinating the rescue, said the liner was completely blocked in by ice.

Kaare Oyre, controller at the rescue centre for northern Norway at Bodø, had planned to unload part of the ship's 480-tonne cargo of heavy fuel before attempting to drag her free, but three vessels involved in the operation had to pull out to avoid becoming trapped themselves.

He added that weather conditions favoured another rescue attempt today.

The Bahamian-registered vessel, owned by Hapag Lloyd, a Hamburg-based shipping firm, was on its way from Norway to Iceland via the scenic islands.

Captain von Harling reportedly told the coastguard that passengers and crew were in good spirits and a sightseeing tour of the surrounding islands had been arranged.

Milosevic elected Yugoslav President

FROM TOM WALKER
IN SARAJEVO

SLOBODAN Milosevic was yesterday elected President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, securing for him another four years in power.

Mr Milosevic's intention to switch from the Serbian to the Yugoslav post had long been known, but the speed with which he accomplished his new status took most observers by surprise.

He was the only candidate and there was little opposition to his election in the federal parliament in the lower house 68 voted for and 10 against, and in the upper house there were 29 for and 2 against.

The opposition movement Zajedno continued its boycott of the lower house and did not take part.

Mr Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party pushed the vote through, with a split in the Montenegrin Socialists looming.

Milo Djukanovic, the Montenegrin Prime Minister and a moderate, is attempting to distance the party from its subservience to Mr Milosevic, but President Momir Bulatovic managed to keep the Montenegrins unified for Mr Milosevic's last stand.

In theory the federal presidency is a symbolic role, but few doubt Mr Milosevic's ability to transfer his substantial security apparatus to federal level.

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Hitler's favourite secretary dies

FROM DEBORAH COLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

ONE of the few remaining members of Adolf Hitler's private staff, who faithfully stood by him until shortly before his suicide in a Berlin bunker, has died of cancer at the age of 83.

Gerda Christian, Hitler's private secretary, outlived her Führer by 52 years and refused to criticise him publicly, saying to friends privately that he was a good and fair boss.

Frau Christian served Hitler until the closing days of the Third Reich and joined him in the bunker in Berlin where he killed himself with his new bride, Eva Braun, in 1945.

Born Gerda Daranowski, she married a senior Wehrmacht officer and was one of Hitler's privileged female members of staff, allowed to stay at his Eagle's Nest hideaway in Berchtesgaden, near the Austrian border. She died in a hospital in Düsseldorf after a long battle against cancer which spread from her lungs to the stomach and bowel.

After a brief unhappy marriage, she lived apart from her husband and dedicated her life to serving the "Chief", as Hitler was known in close circles. She refused to give interviews to historians or journalists about Hitler and spoke about him only with close friends or family, when she would praise his kindness.

"What should I say?" she once asked a German journalist who called at her small flat

in Henry-Dunant-Strasse in Düsseldorf. "Whatever I say will be wrongly interpreted." But she later told a friend: "I cannot complain about my time with the Führer. We were even allowed to smoke at a time in Germany when it was not the done thing for women to smoke."

Ironically, a habit which Frau Christian later said saved her from the invading Russian Army eventually caused her long, painful death. After more than 100 days in hiding 55ft below ground in the Berlin bunker, with the Allies advancing towards the capital from all directions, Gerda and Hitler's other secretary, Traudl Junge, eventually tried to escape.

Despite her dishevelled appearance, the attractive young blonde with sparkling blue eyes aroused the suspicion of a Russian soldier patrolling the area near the bunker. She was arrested and questioned for hours because the Russians believed that she was somebody famous or a member of Hitler's entourage.

But when Gerda took a cigarette offered to her by one of the soldiers, dragged hard and inhaled the smoke deep into her lungs, she portrayed a different image. "One of the soldiers said to the other that German high society don't behave like that," she later recalled, adding that they released her believing she was probably a local farmhand.



Gerda Christian, left, always praised her Führer as a kind and fair boss and remained with him until the last days in the Berlin bunker

Gerda befriended Eva Braun and in the early days, when Hitler had little time and interest in his girlfriend, would go on long walks with her or sit chatting on the terraces of Berchtesgaden, taking in the panoramic views

of the Austrian mountains. She rubbed shoulders with the Third Reich elite and their wives on the many occasions Hitler entertained in his Alpine retreat. It is said by Traudl Junge, whose memoirs have been written by two

French journalists, that Gerda was a favourite of Hitler, because her looks typified his ideal of an Aryan woman.

He ordered her to leave the Berlin bunker and flee to the south to escape Allied troops. According to historical ac-

counts, both she and Frau Junge refused to go, and later accepted cyanide pills from the SS leader, Heinrich Himmler. But Hitler was against them committing suicide, and in his final days told the two women they would

cope without him. "If only our generals had been as brave as you," the Führer told his secretaries. By the time Hitler and Eva Braun died, the women had fled the bunker. Both succeeded in escaping from Berlin.

WORLD SUMMARY

US to act on genetic test abuse

Washington: President Clinton has thrown his weight behind a Bill which would bar insurance companies from discriminating on the grounds of genetic testing (Brunwen Maddox writes).

Under the Bill, gathering momentum in the wake of concern about abuses of genetic testing, health insurers could not cancel or refuse policies because of risks revealed by tests. "Americans should never have to choose between saving their health insurance and tests that could save their lives," Mr Clinton said. Insurance companies say they will fight it.

Police protest

Frankfurt: More than 6,000 German police joined a national demonstration in Mainz to protest against government plans to raise the retirement age (Deborah Colcutt writes). Police officers are at present entitled to a full state pension at 60, but the Government wants to make them work an extra year. Yesterday's was the second demonstration organised by the police union in a week. Officers converged on Bonn last week on the day the 1998 Budget was signed.

Freedom pledge

Turkey has promised a delegation of Western journalists to release some of the 78 journalists in prison and to change the law to give them greater protection (Michael Binyon writes). Mesut Yilmaz, the new Prime Minister, told Terry Anderson and others from the Committee to Protect Journalists that the jailing of journalists and restrictions of press freedom in Turkey were "unacceptable".

Pacific conduct

Auckland: A rugby match in Tonga turned into a riot in which one of the Pacific kingdom's colleges was destroyed, leading to the arrest of 154 high school boys, the *Tonga Chronicle* reported. Petrol bombs were thrown, shots were fired and about £480,000 damage was caused at Tonga College by students of the rival Tupou College. (AFP)

Eta names councillor as next murder target

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

SECURITY measures were being tightened yesterday around Basque town councillors belonging to the Popular Party of José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, as radical separatists threatened to carry out their second killing in a week.

"You are next," said graffiti warnings in the northern town of Renteria, naming José Luis Ciso, a Popular Party councillor in the area. His party said it was taking the threat seriously, adding: "We are reviewing their security."

Señor Ciso, 63, said that he was not scared. "I don't want to worry about it, because I know it is risky to defend certain ideas in the Basque country. Nothing is going to stop me thinking this way."

The moderate Basque Nationalist Party, which leads the regional government, also gave a warning that Eta was planning to carry out more attacks on politicians. "It knows it has lost the war and only aims to create chaos," Joseba Egibar said.

A Spanish prison officer, José Antonio Ortega Lara, freed by police two weeks ago after being held captive by Eta for nearly 18 months, revealed yesterday that the separatists considered the Prime Minister their principal target. They told him that they were desperate to get him, he said.

Señor Aznar, who survived an Eta car bomb attack in 1995, yesterday repeated calls for Eta's political ally, the Herri Batasuna party, to be isolated. Javier Mayor Oreja, the Interior Minister, said any measures to be taken against Herri Batasuna would have to be agreed by all parties in the Basque parliament.

Marches to protest against Eta's kidnapping and killing of Miguel Ángel Blanco, the Popular Party town councillor, two weeks ago continued in towns and cities across Spain yesterday. Millions had taken to the streets in Madrid and Barcelona on Monday night in the biggest demonstrations since the failed 1981 coup. While most protests

were peaceful, the backlash against Eta erupted in sporadic violence overnight in the Basque country, where Blanco was buried on Monday in his home town of Erma.

In San Sebastián, more than 1,000 anti-Eta protesters hurled eggs and stones at offices and a bar used by Herri Batasuna. People inside retaliated with petrol bombs, police said. At least two youths were injured and one person was arrested.

In Bilbao, Spanish media reported that protesters attacked two Eta sympathisers in an assault on Herri Batasuna's headquarters. Similar clashes erupted in the Basque capital, Vitoria. Gorka Mariñel, the Herri Batasuna leader, yesterday said his party was not glad Blanco had been killed. "We more than anyone else, understand the family's pain," he said.

He blamed Blanco's death on a government refusal to meet Eta's demands that 500 prisoners in jails across Spain be moved to the Basque region. He added that the Government was trying to start a witch-hunt against Herri Batasuna and its voters, and gave a warning of a "dangerous worsening of the situation".

José Miguel Latasa, a repentant Eta prisoner, yesterday called on Herri Batasuna leaders to give way to others, saying: "They are taking us towards disaster."



Cook: London is target for money-launderers

Britain and Russia to fight mafia

Moscow: Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday completed details of an unprecedented intelligence-sharing agreement between Britain and Russia to fight the spread of organised crime (Richard Beeston writes).

After talks at the Russian Interior Ministry, Mr Cook said the text of a co-operation agreement had been reached, which he hoped would be signed formally in the autumn when Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, is due to visit Moscow.

The agreement would formalise co-operation between police, intelligence services and customs officials. In particular to target the growing problem of drugs trafficking and money-laundering. Russia is a main conduit for heroin from Afghanistan. Mr Cook said London was a particular target for Russian mafia money-launderers.

Blair vow on Cyprus peace

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday promised President Clerides of Cyprus that Britain would do all it could to bolster the United Nations talks to end the island's division and to speed its accession to the European Union.

The Prime Minister welcomed the progress made at last week's face-to-face meeting between Mr Clerides and Rauf Denktas, leader of the Turkish Cypriots, and urged the President to continue moves to reduce tensions on the island.

The Downing Street meeting came as officials expressed optimism over four days of talks in Troutbeck, New York state, the first in three years,

which went better than diplomats expected. The two men agreed to meet occasionally in Nicosia to resolve problems such as forest fires, looking for people missing since the 1974 Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus, and incidents on the green line buffer zone. They will hold a second round of constitutional talks in Switzerland next month.

Diplomats hope that, after the elections for the Greek Cypriot presidency next February, a further round of talks could be held to get agreement on a complete package. This would include the withdrawal of Turkish troops, a federal constitution and reducing the Turkish area from 37

to about 28 per cent of the land. The two sides will be asked to submit proposed constitutions over the summer, which the UN special envoy will turn into a single negotiating draft.

Diplomats said yesterday that the most difficult issue was the proposed return or compensation for refugees, who had set up strong lobbies overseas. "All know that there will not be a wholesale return, and no significant numbers will go back in the short term," one source said.

The latest attempt at a settlement comes amid rising tensions along the green line.

Leading article, page 19

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Saddam joins the Queen on wealth list

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

SADDAM HUSSEIN, the President of Iraq, and Fidel Castro, the Communist Cuban dictator, have been included for the first time this year in the recognised list of the world's richest people.

They join the Queen and the Sultan of Brunei in a special category released as part of the traditional survey of the financial elite by *Forbes Magazine*.

Saddam, the fifth richest among kings, queens and dictators, is estimated to have amassed a \$5 billion (£2.9 billion) fortune from an oil smuggling operation run by his son, Uday.

Señor Castro is thought to

control at least 10 per cent of the ailing Cuban economy with numerous assets and investments in the sugar and nickel industries totalling \$1.4 billion. He is placed tenth, ahead of the Queen, whose wealth is projected at \$350 million, excluding the Royal Collection and the Crown Jewels, which are held in trust.

Kerry Dolan, an editor at *Forbes Magazine*, said readers had constantly asked why the Sultan of Brunei, the richest man in the world with \$38 billion, was not included in the list alongside business moguls such as Bill Gates, whose personal earnings from Microsoft have reached \$36.4 billion.

"Traditionally *Forbes* has excluded royalty, heads of



Saddam: oil smuggling

state and other political powers from the list, but we've had so many questions about them we decided to make a change this year," she said.

"We want to stress that the people in this category benefit



Castro: investments in nickel and sugar

from their political position, not their business acumen. That's why we have created a special category."

Saddam's fortune, which makes him the 50th richest man in the world, is believed

by the magazine to be half his total worth before the Gulf War. But he and Señor Castro remain more affluent than British members of the business list, including Richard Branson, head of Virgin on



Fahd: \$20 billion wealth

\$2.1 billion; David Sainsbury, the food magnate with \$1.5 billion, and Sir Anthony Bamford, chairman of JCB construction equipment, a new entry with \$1.3 billion.

The instability in the Mid-

dle East created by Saddam's attacks on the Iraqi Kurds has merely helped to increase his earnings as the United Nations continues to place an embargo on the legitimate flow of oil from Baghdad. The average per capita income for his population has dropped from \$2,300 to \$1,000 in seven years.

For a man who regularly criticises the capitalist West, Señor Castro has made a steady profit from his impoverished country since the 1959 revolution. Apart from industrial assets, he and Raul, his brother, own numerous palaces and hotels in Havana and outside. There has also been widespread speculation about money that the Cuban leader may have made from drug

deals with Colombian cartels. Forbes has spent months speaking to oil industry experts and others to achieve an informed estimate for Saddam. In the case of Señor Castro, however, the magazine has only been able to guess.

Among others included on the special register are Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, whose royal assets net \$4.7 billion; King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, with \$20 billion, and President Suharto, the far from Democratic leader of Indonesia, at \$16 billion.

Leading Hong Kong businessmen Lee Shau Kee, chairman of Henderson Land, and Li Ka-shing, the property and retail entrepreneur, head the Asian list.

Israelis split over plans for festivities in 1998

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

ELABORATE plans to celebrate next year's fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Israel have provoked deep internal divisions between Israelis about what events would be appropriate.

At the same time, Western intelligence experts have said that the main celebrations next May are likely to prove the focus for intensive terrorist attacks on Jewish targets in Israel and abroad. It is feared that spectacular attacks, including a return to air and ship hijacking could be involved, with Iran and Libya providing finance.

Almost no one emerged satisfied from a heated meeting of the Knesset's Interior Committee at which planners unveiled proposals for 12 months of celebrations including a fashion show at the Red Sea resort of Eilat. The programme would culminate in an international economic conference presided over by Prime Minister, in November.

Deputies on the committee split into disaffected camps of European and Middle Eastern Jews and Israeli Arabs. Critics claimed that the plans reflected a long-standing bias in Israel to Western culture.

The only mention, in the official document outlining the plans, of Israel's Arab citizens — about one fifth of the 5.8 million population — is a "salute to minorities" in the Druze village of Horfesh in April. Taleb Sana, an Arab legislator, argued this was not enough.

Yesterday tension escalated on Israel's northern border after Hezbollah guerrillas fired a Katyusha rocket across the border from south Lebanon a day after Israeli shelling killed two Lebanese civilians.

The new upsurge of violence came 48 hours before Mr Netanyahu is due to attend a celebration on the occupied Golan Heights to mark 30 years since the territory was conquered from Syria, which Israel accuses of openly encouraging Hezbollah violence.

London: Yasser Arafat yesterday held talks in London with Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, to discuss the Palestinians' application for membership of the organisation (Glen Owen writes).

Membership of the Commonwealth is currently restricted to independent states, but the group will hold a summit in Edinburgh in October to consider membership rules.



British-born Michael Foale, left, might have to repair the Mir space station in place of the unwell Commander Vasili Tsibliyev, right, pictured earlier in their mission.

Mir hitches raise fears over joint space ventures

BY BRONWEN MADDOX AND ROBIN LODGE

NASA reacted coolly last night to the suggestion that Michael Foale, the British-born American astronaut on board the Russian space station Mir, may have to carry out repairs to the stricken complex in place of the flight commander, who is suffering from an irregular heartbeat.

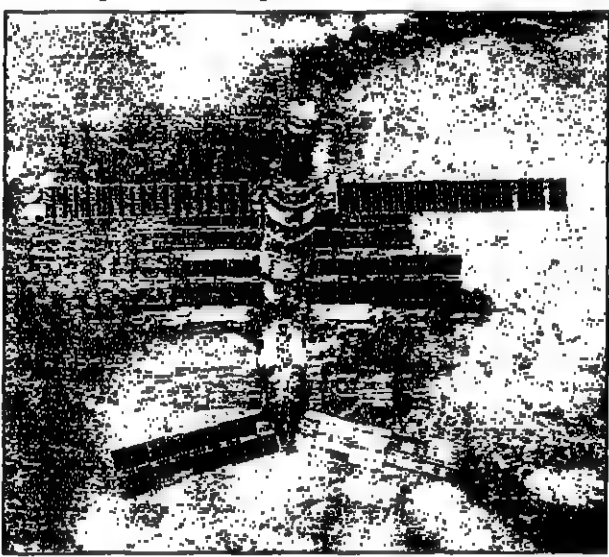
The repairs, to reconnect power cables severed on June 25 when Mir collided with an unmanned cargo craft, were postponed indefinitely yesterday to allow doctors to assess the condition of Commander Vasili Tsibliyev, who complained of cardiovascular problems on Monday. The Russian Mission Control doctor told the commander yesterday to take sedatives and medicine to stabilise his heartbeat.

Mr Foale has been trained in spacewalking, but has not

performed the tricky manoeuvre. NASA said yesterday. The agency said repairs might be left until a relief crew arrives in early August.

Debbie Rohn, a NASA spokeswoman, said yesterday that the past three weeks had deepened the agency's "close working relationship" with the Russians. She added that, for both sides, safety of the astronauts was a priority, and that NASA had not yet decided whether to replace Mr Foale, who is due to return to Earth in September.

But the cool response cast new doubt on long-term collaboration between the two countries in space. Scientists and members of Congress have been asking whether the Russian space programme has fallen so far behind in technical capability and finances that joint efforts are



Repairs to Mir might have to wait until next month

worthless or even slowing down the United States.

For 15 years after the launch of *Sputnik* in 1957, the American and Russian space programmes raced each other in putting men into space, with virtually unlimited funds. Eventually, the costs of attempting ever more demanding feats prompted collaboration. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has been keen to continue joint programmes "to keep

Russian rocket engineers in Russia and out of North Korea," according to John Pike, space policy director of the Federation of American Scientists.

But Russia, short of funds and scientists, many of whom have emigrated to America, may now not be able to afford even collaboration. Launch of the International Space Station, due last November, has been put back to June 1998 because of Russian delays.

Missed heartbeats caused by stress

THE palpitations which disturbed Vasili Tsibliyev, the 43-year-old Russian spaceman, as he lay in his bunk worried and sleepless on Friday night, judging from his own description and the reassuring remarks of the control doctor, were almost certainly the result of extra systoles. As the doctor said: "You have to calm down — healthy people often have this problem."

Ventricular extra systoles, also known as ventricular premature or ectopic beats, are usually thought of by patients as missed beats and are the most common form of cardiac arrhythmia. In this form of abnormal heart rhythm, one beat is followed quickly by another in rapid succession and both beats are slightly unusual: after them there is a long compensatory pause before the next beat, which is rather stronger than usual.

Commander Tsibliyev's heart would have been thoroughly checked to exclude the common causes of extra sys-

tole such as coronary heart disease, aortic stenosis or cardiac failure. Usually multiple extra systoles are related to anxiety, stress, insomnia, caffeine or alcohol. It will have been reassuring that the Mir commander's ECG, taken after he noticed his palpitations, revealed no underlying abnormality and was within normal limits.

There are possible complicating factors. Commander Tsibliyev's heart has been subjected to more prolonged strains than anticipated. The exercises designed to counteract the ill effects of weightlessness have had to be modified to conserve oxygen, in short supply since the collision. Oxygen lack could also uncover any previously undetected weaknesses in Tsibliyev's cardiac reserves.

This alarm raises the question as to whether it is wise to send 43-year-olds into space for prolonged trips.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Generals executed in purge of royalists following Cambodian coup

FROM TOM FANTHROP
IN PHNOM PENH

IN THE wake of last week's coup, in which Hun Sen, Cambodia's Second Prime Minister, took control of the country, between 35 and 40 royalist military officials, bodyguards and party activists have been summarily killed by his army

loyalists and soldiers of the victorious CPP-Cambodian Peoples Party.

The Cambodian Government has confirmed that six leading royalist military figures — including Ho Sok, who was Prince Norodom Ranariddh's chief of intelligence, General Chea Sambath, deputy head of military

intelligence, General Ly Sen Hon and General Sam Norin — have been killed.

Prince Ranariddh was the country's First Prime Minister until he was ousted last week during two days of fighting in Phnom Penh while he was in France.

A Western observer summed up the new killings by saying that the

six were either shot while in military or police custody, or were killed while being taken into custody.

The Government has accepted that Ho Sok, who had sought sanctuary in the Singapore Embassy in Phnom Penh, was forced to leave the building, then immediately arrested and shot while being

held in custody at the Ministry of the Interior. An investigation has been ordered.

However, government sources have claimed that General Chea Sambath committed suicide. According to a CPP military commander, General Sam Norin, another royalist, was killed "because soldiers got very angry

after they had been hunting for him. They surrounded him and opened fire."

In the capital, several hundred FUNCINPEC (royalist) MPs, human rights activists and opposition journalists are still in hiding.

□ Election date: Cambodia's next election will be on May 23, Hun Sen said in an interview. (Reuters)

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Royalty builds a new empire in Manhattan

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

MANHATTAN is awash with blue blood from around the world. Thumbing its nose at America's republican heritage, the island now boasts more kings, queens and princelings per square mile than any other place on Earth.

New York's charms — lashings of easy money, a fawning reception from the natives, superlative restaurants and shopping, and even anonymity — have ensured that the city is home to more royalty than it knows what to do with.

According to *New York* magazine, the following live in the city: Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece; Princess Christina of The Netherlands; Prince and Princess Alexander Romanov of Russia; Prince and Princess Nikita Romanov of Russia; Empress Farah of Iran; Prince Osman of Turkey; Princess Yasmin Aga Khan; and Prince Amoti Nyabongo of Toro, in Uganda.

The latter, a burly member of "New York's finest", is a policeman on the beat in Brooklyn, and his "proud" moment was to appear once on the Oprah Winfrey Show. The rest are costume jewellers, art dealers, property developers and publishers. Many, of course, do no work at all.

The city also boasts a float-

ing population of royals who live or rule elsewhere, but jet in and out for a spot of New World peace and fun. The best known among them, naturally, is Diana, Princess of Wales, who has been to New York so often this year that people speculate that she might soon take up residence there.

Other frequent fliers include Sarah, Duchess of York; Princess Margaret; Prince Edward; Princess Michael of Kent; the Sultan of

Brunet Prince Albert of Monaco, and his sisters, the Princesses Stephanie and Caroline; Princess Fiyal of Jordan; and King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain.

Hostesses vie with each other to have them to their Manhattan apartments, or to their homes in Connecticut and Long Island. Charitable organisations latch on to them; restaurateurs pose for photographs with dining royals, playing them with free champagne. Job offers pour in to the younger, impecunious princelings.

Many royals are milking the adulation. Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia, for example, has launched her own perfume called E. The box is emblazoned with a gold crown, and has "HRH Princess Elizabeth" in royal blue.

Others have no need for cash. Prince Pavlos of Greece is, to put it bluntly, flush after his marriage to Marie-Chantal Miller, a duty-free heiress. Her father, a billionaire with private jets and a myriad mansions, is the kind of royalty New Yorkers recognise more readily when only money was king. Now, it seems, a crowned head from the Old World is worth as much as millions of dollars in a New World bank.



Empress Farah: happy in the shopping capital



Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece and his wife Crown Princess Marie-Chantal with baby Maria Olympia. They join numerous other royals charmed by the Big Apple

Abandoned yacht found adrift in Bermuda Triangle

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A ROYAL Navy frigate found a yacht abandoned and adrift in the Bermuda Triangle. Crew from HMS London, who boarded the 50ft German ketch *Ruth* in the mid-Atlantic last week were baffled to find clothes and personal belongings lying around the boat, and even a book open on a bunk.

HMS London's captain, Commander Iain Greenlees, of Campbeltown, west Scotland, said: "We spotted the yacht about 300 miles from Bermuda, on the edge of the Triangle and she looked immediately strange. She had no sails and there were mooring ropes hanging over the side. When we got no response, we sent a small team to investigate."

Inside the yacht, clothes were lying on a bunk, an ashtray was overflowing with cigarette ends and a book was left open as if someone was in the middle of reading it. Personal possessions, including a wedding ring and passports, were lying around the boat. Cmdr Greenlees said: "It looked as though someone had just stepped off it five minutes before, with every intention of returning. The first indication that it had been at sea for longer than that was when one of the team opened the fridge and was knocked back by the stench of rotting food."

The HMS London crew ascertained that the yacht belonged to a German couple

in their 30s — Ralf Schilling and his wife, whose name is not known. They had sold their home and bought the *Ruth* second-hand, aiming to sail the world. Records showed they had sailed through the Bay of Biscay and past Spain to the Canary Islands last September when the trail runs cold.

Although it appears to have been adrift on the stormy Atlantic for ten months, the *Ruth* was in good condition, without a drop of seawater on board. After 24 hours of cladding and repairs to the rudder and sails, it was ready to sail to Puerto Rico, with a volunteer crew skippered by HMS London's doctor, Surgeon Lieutenant Suzanne Porter, 26.

When their navigational equipment and engine failed and they sailed into huge storms, the HMS London volunteers feared that they too had become victims of the notorious Bermuda Triangle, where ships and planes are reputed to have disappeared.

"When the equipment started failing, we wondered if there was some sort of curse on the boat and it was quite spooky being in the Bermuda Triangle, but morale kept up and we came through it unscathed," Lt Porter said. Once out of the Bermuda Triangle, the equipment started working again, and the *Ruth* arrived safely in Puerto Rico to rejoin HMS London on July 12.

Woman's lost cash returned by cabbie

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A BRITISH woman aged 71 wept with relief here yesterday when a taxi driver returned a bag with her life's savings to her after she had left it on the back seat of his cab.

Gwendoline Weeks, a retired nurse, moved to New York from London 11 years ago. With an economic distrust of banks, and a fear that her neighbours would rob her, she always carries her nest egg with her — a sum totalling \$32,859 (£19,500).

Late last week, however, she forgot her precious bag in a taxi driven by Qurban Munir Tirmizi, 20, a Pakistani immigrant in his third week as a part-time cabbie.

After dropping Mrs Weeks off and driving some distance, he noticed the bag. Pulling over to check if it had an address, he was startled to find that it was stuffed full of dollar bills.

Mr Tirmizi, who is studying to be a jeweller, went straight

to the police. Rumormongering through the bag, they found a piece of identification that helped them to track down Mrs Weeks. Later the overjoyed pensioner said of Mr Tirmizi: "He's a very nice, kind gentleman. I don't think there's six like him. He's a child of God. I love him."

Turning down her offer of a reward, the taxi driver said: "I just need your blessings to get through my studies and succeed in life."

Yesterday, Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, praised Mr Tirmizi as "a model citizen". He also revealed that Mrs Weeks had now promised to open a bank account.

□ Moscow: A tramp who found \$15,000 — equal to several years' income for most people — while picking through a rubbish dump returned it to the owner and was rewarded with cases of beer, vodka and food. (AP)

New drugs cut deaths from Aids

Washington: Deaths from Aids in America plunged by 19 per cent during the first nine months of last year because of the success of new drugs in treating the condition (Brownlow Maddox writes).

The fall to 30,700, compared with 37,900 in the first nine months of 1995, is also due to a slowdown in the spread of the HIV virus. Deaths among women dropped for the first time.

"We have entered a new era in the HIV epidemic, both in terms of treatment and prevention," said Dr Helene Cayle of the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the past few months, doctors have begun cautiously to revise their view that infection with the HIV virus was a death sentence.

The new drugs — protease inhibitors — have shown more success than any previous treatments in halting the progress of Aids.

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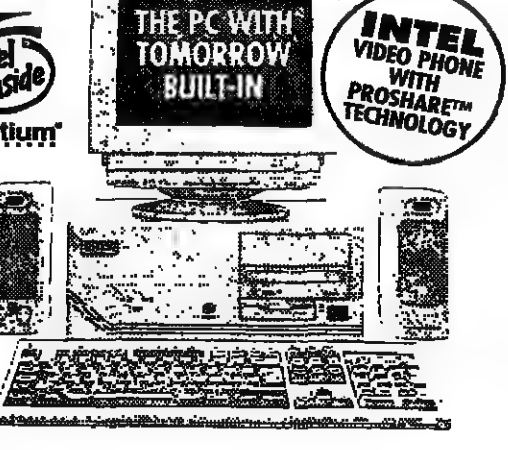
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I am prepared to accept that more people consider themselves

I wouldn't begin to try to make a case for crippling shyness. There is nothing to be said for it, other than that it is utter torture. One can get over it, though. I was so shy all through my childhood that I don't think I ever spoke out loud (except at school where I was resolutely un-shy to make

But the real reason is that

Now that really is what I call sick:

But much as one respects his desire to listen, I'm not sure his plan to set up some special focus group, ready to tell the Government where it's going wrong at every turn, is an encouraging sign. A good

It rather reminds me of the apocryphal story from the set of *Marathon Man*, when Laurence Olivier was purportedly amazed by the amount of research gruesomely undertaken by Dustin Hoffman in preparation for his role. "I should try acting, dear boy," he famously advised.

One of the psychologists at this conference points the finger at two sources: parents and television; too little of the former and too much of the latter. The trouble is, you could ask any number of parents of teenage children and they'd tell you that the reason they don't talk to their children is not because they're working too hard, but because their children won't talk to them.

a generation ago. I do think the modern way is better, even if it appears emetically sentimental to those out of the loop. If a child feels its parents are interested in it, the chances are it will grow up confident and with a sense of self, that cannot preclude shyness but should prevent it reaching self-destructive levels.

The Princess's crossed wires

IT'S HARD not to feel sorry for the Princess of Wales and even sorer for her sons, plagued as they are by photographers. I wonder, though, whether the Princess would feel less persecuted if she weren't such an obvious victim of her own reliance on the presspack.

A bit of self-awareness, in place of self-justification, would indicate that to complain about press attention, while talking to a boatload of tabloid hacks wearing nothing but a swimming costume, is certainly giving a mixed message. That's the modern way, anyway, for explaining the behaviour of a tease.

NO MORE than a postscript is needed to draw a line under the story of the vicar who thinks that children should be banned from marriage ceremonies.

It shouldn't really need to be pointed out to him that unsightly as many children are, they are what the vows he is conducting are all about. But then, I'm not surprised that some of the clergy are ill-disposed towards children: when you come to think of it, many are not the marrying kind either.

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On graduating from high school he went to study acting at Sanford Meisner's Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. "Sandy transmitted the notion that acting was a very worthwhile, serious thing to dedicate yourself to," says Goldblum, who now teaches

Certainly Goldblum's interest in others, whether spontaneous or programmed to please, sets him apart from the average celebrity interview. He constantly solicits your opinion on everything from his reading material (Robert Hughes's *History of Art in America* and Gabriel Garcia Marquez) to the rewards of parenthood. But on the subject of his own private life, he maintains a cordial discretion.

Married for the first time at 23 to the actress Patricia Gaul, he met his second wife, Geena Davis, on the set of *The Fly* and married her in a drive-through ceremony in Las Ve-

"I've had a little experience, and because of that experience I've got a strong feeling to keep my romantic personal life undisplayed," he says, falling once more into the curious rhythms of Stanford-speak.

Goldblum brings the question to a close by the simple expedient of closing his eyes. Then, as if refreshed by a nanosecond's sleep, he jackknifes his oft-tin frame on the hospitality suite sofa and springs back into PR-on-Prozac mode.

"It's not that I've been burnt by fame," he insists. "Fame is generally not unpleasant. And I'm grateful. Grateful is what I am. Yup." He stretches a yawn into a last, yard-long smile. "Actually, grateful."

● *The Lost World* opens nationwide on Friday.

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Alan Coren



■ When a Princess and a grocer embrace, wait for the Pincer line

Forgive me — for I cannot help it if the buckling walls of my cerebral attic are stacked with millions of old pictures, upon one or other of which a shaft of moted sunlight will suddenly, unbidden, fall — but when I spotted those jolly fondlings aboard the good ship *Sakara*, there came into my head, wily-nilly, that scene in *The Godfather* when Don Corleone, *il capo di tutti capi*, puts his arms around a close friend, and hugs him. You know that hug. It is the hug which tells you that the hugger expects something from the huggée, which, if it is not delivered, will result in the huggée ending up as part of the New Jersey turnpike.

Is, then, the core issue now facing the bewildered nation this: who initiated the hugging, Mr Mohamed Al Fayed, or the Princess, ie, which of them wanted something from the other? No, it is not the core issue that both of them wanted something from the other. The hugging, therefore, was that even more intriguing item, a spontaneous mutual grab. I know this, because it would be well-nigh impossible to think of any two other people in the entire world who wanted things more. But what was it, in this case, that they wanted?

We all know what Mr Al Fayed wants, he wants to be Citizen Al Fayed; to which end, when formally frustrated by the Home Office, he made his bid for informal citizenship by snapping up large pieces of the nation's cultural jigsaw, from beloved traditional football clubs, to beloved traditional magazines and beloved traditional Members of Parliament. Indeed — though he chucklingly denies that the repainting of beloved traditional Hammermill Bridge in the Harrods colours of green and gold had anything to do with him — he is even transforming the beloved traditional Depository beside that bridge into a community of 250 houses, to be called Harrods Village. Mr Al Fayed will soon have his own beloved traditional hamlet.

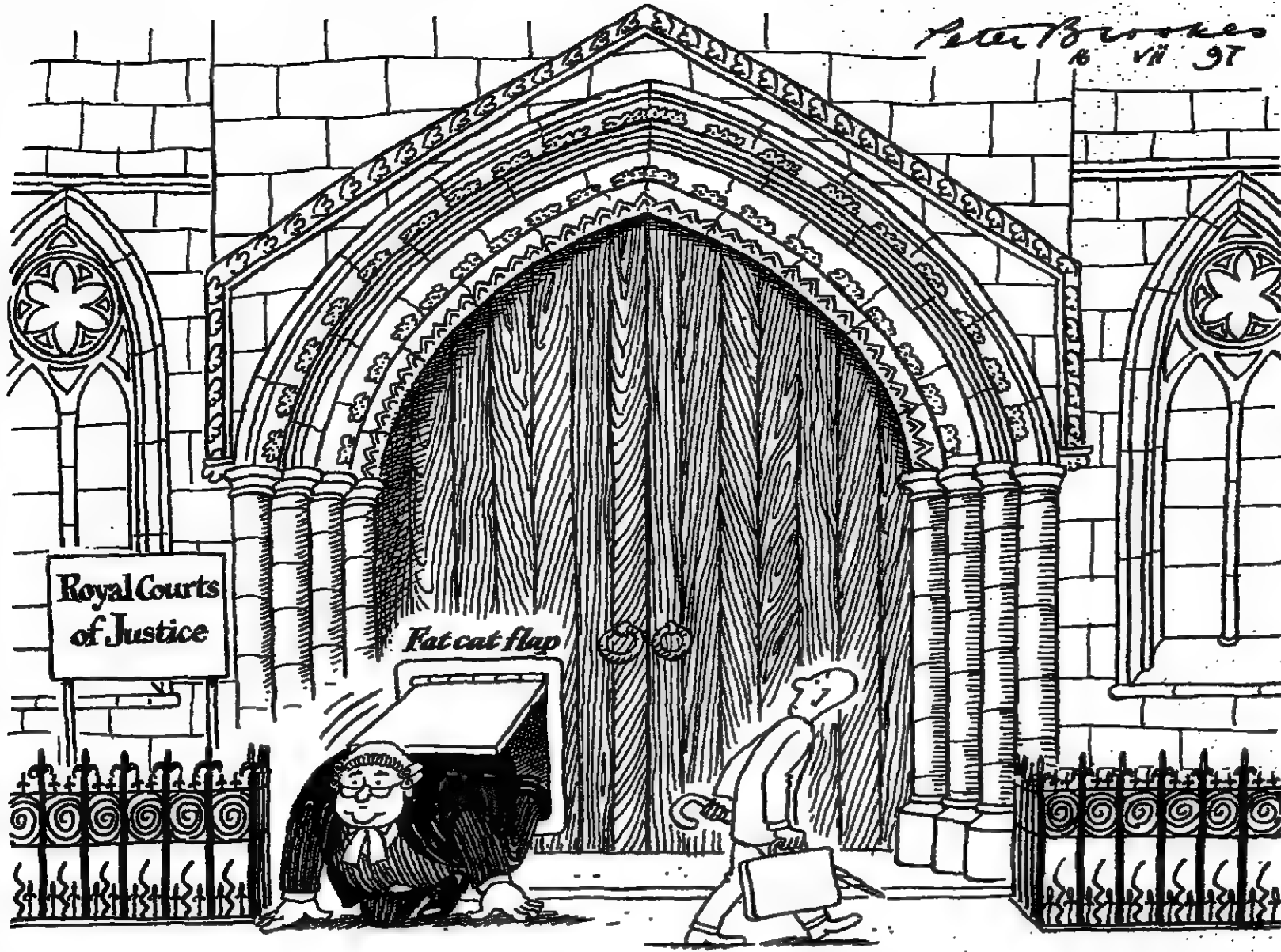
But, as yet, he doesn't have his own beloved traditional Royal. And if you are to become a truly major weaver of Britain's cultural wool — *il Botton*, as it were, *il tutti Botton* — then you cannot do without the glint of gold thread which only a Royal can offer. That is why Mohamed is hugging Diana. But what, precisely, does he want from her?

He wants precisely what she wants from him. Isn't that lucky? It means that nobody will end up as part of the New Jersey turnpike. The Princess wants not only love, respect, admiration, and a whole new wardrobe, she also wants the homage of the public prints, especially if her face is on the cover. Now, there is only one certain way of assuring this, and that is to have a public print of your own. Yes, she needs to be the editor of something really knockout. And if it could be something traditionally beloved, that wouldn't hurt either.

I sense that you are ahead of me. You have suddenly remembered that it is almost ten years since *Punch* had as its editor a gorgeous fashion-plate, thus ensuring that it was not only traditionally beloved but also enjoyed big sales and made big bucks. But it has had seven editors since then, each less gorgeous than the one before, its sales have plummeted, and today the big bucks do not get made, they get spent. It is hardly more than a year since it was bought by Mr Al Fayed, since which time some ten million bucks have vanished where the sun don't shine. So then, might there be any way of turning this beloved traditional artefact around, and might that way also put smiles as simultaneous as their yachty hugs onto the faces of Mohamed and Diana?

Oh, I think we think there might, don't we? Any circulation manager will tell you that sticking the Princess's face on a cover puts 20 per cent on the sales, and if your second question were whether he would fancy handling a magazine behind which cover lay 200 pages of material known only to the Princess, and that every week there would be more where that came from, he would fall whimpering to his knees and inquire whether you knew Mephistopheles, because the circulation manager wanted desperately to do a deal involving his immortal soul.

And you would reply, no, not personally, but I know a man who does.



What news from the Piazza

The Marx Brothers' satire, *A Night at the Opera*, shows First Class passengers on a transatlantic liner strolling with brandy and cigars to the rear of the quarterdeck. There they look down on hundreds of Italian migrants packed into steerage, laughing, dancing, eating spaghetti, and applauding the Verdi arias of a stowaway tenor. The tenor, needless to say, is soon the star of the *Mit*.

At Monday night's gala to celebrate Covent Garden's two-year closure, I drifted between the Opera House and the Piazza outside, the Marx Brothers much in mind. In the Piazza, some 5,000 opera enthusiasts were camped out, watching Plácido Domingo, Sylvie Guillem, Bryn Terfel and Darcie Bussell relayed on a giant screen. They picnicked on the cobbles, drank wine on the verandas, chatted in the cool evening and cheered as lights played on Inigo Jones's facades. This was an urban Glyndebourne, the opera of the boulevards.

Two thousand people in "First Class" round the corner in Bow Street looked miserable. They were tied up in dinner jackets like lobsters in a cauldron, an occasional claw breaking free to wave for air or a glass of champagne. Two decades of Britain's Great and Good were trooping their favourite colour before their favourite royal, the Prince of Wales. The event was strangely empty of emotion. Presented with 5,000 opera fans in the Piazza and millions on television, the Opera House inexplicably chose an act from *Peter Grimes* as its centrepiece, followed by a series of mostly sad arias. Sadness does not jerk tears when sung out of dramatic context, except when Domingo sings *Otello*. Nor does it broadcast well. The Royal Ballet had to save the day, with Bussell, Guillem and Viviana Durante lifting the evening from the stage and holding it in the required suspense. At the end, Sleeping Beauty faded gloriously from view, "the royal garden transformed into an impenetrable forest". At least for two years.

To move between the jolly crowd outside and the subdued audience inside was to cross a time-war. Outside was Nineties high-tech, sound and light, youth and the collective enthusiasm of the opera buff. Inside came to seem more and more like a filmset of the Austro-Hungarian empire. A crown prince and his aunt sat surrounded by

A night at the opera has always cost the earth — but now we have learnt how to bring Covent Garden to a wider public

courtiers, with Government officials and capitalist grandees in attendance. Footmen flattered. Heads craned and sweat trickled. Who was sitting where? Who was that next to the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret? Will the Majors talk to the Thatchers? Is that William Hague's girlfriend?

Back outside the irreverent camera panned along the Royal Circle and caught a phalanx of politicians standing to attention. The crowd let out an instinctive boo. Domingo and Bussell restored decorum by appearing on screen to salute the Piazza audience. Last year Angela Georgeiou and Roberto Alagna came out in person after their *Traviata* to say thank you to the throng. It was a populist coup de theatre. Nobody from the Opera House thought to say thank you this time. Yet these were the fans of the future.

At such moments, wicked thoughts cross my mind. Why not preserve the Royal Opera House and redevelop its audience? By the date of reopening in 2000, every stick and stone of Covent Garden would surely be listable for preservation as industrial archaeology. The antique hangings, the lumpy seats, the cherubs, the stage rigging worthy of the *Curtain*, must all be unique. Likewise the famous "Spanish practices" backstage. Where would the Opera House be without its traditional off-sick list, its Mickey Mouse payments and the carpenters on "starvation wages"? Such relics must not be lost to the nation.

Monday's Great and Good, I thought, could be demolished and the doors thrown open with ease. Grand opera has never really been the British Establishment at play, more at dutiful prayer. Covent Garden is a modern "royal peculiar". Ever since its patron saint, Lord Goodman, persuaded successive Governments that subsidised opera mysteriously "trickled down" to

exalt the taxpayer at large, a confidence trick has been under way. Those who like grand opera have grabbed what is now £15 million a year for their cultural tipple. I noticed that pride of placement on Monday went to officials and ministers, not to private wealth. The taxpayer remains the Great Sponsor. The audience should have been asked to sing the final aria from *Fidelio*: "The Minister of State is come to save us! Oh, inexpressible joy!"

Yet all this is changing with closure. The first change is nonsense. The Government is demanding that the Opera House improve accessibility by lowering the price of its seats.

This "affordability" correctness is a total waste. Subsidising a few tickets each night to a tiny theatre cannot qualify for £15 million of subsidy a year. I know who the beneficiaries would be. They are the people who sit in the Piazza, most of whom are among the half million who have enjoyed subsidised £10 tickets over the past five years. These are buffs who can afford a ticket once or twice a year, and would now afford a third. They are not a dispossessed proletariat. That proletariat either hates opera or prefers to hear it on CD. Why a handful of people should be given opera tickets at half the going price of a good football match (£20) beats me.

Opera is not for elites. That is a fallacy disproved by recording sales and the Three Tenors. It is for the rich. What costs money is watching opera on stage in person. The only way subsidising such enjoyment can be justified is not through widening access to a single performance but through disseminating it. Dissemination took place on Monday in the Piazza and on BBC television. In his interval speech, the Covent Garden chairman, Lord Chadlington, promised more screen relays, more broadcasting, more recordings and cinema transmissions. This is the necessary change. He

will have a fight with his unions, who do not tolerate dissemination, except for prohibitive payments.

Covent Garden in the past has polluted the well of arts subsidy. It has used specious arguments for its grants, and has wasted them when given. It tested the elitist fallacy to destruction. The place now has a heaven-sent opportunity to make itself the hub of a nationwide opera network, building on the customers in the Piazza, not the crush bar. Subsidy should not be used to save the consciences of the rich and Whitehall by making ticket prices less "obscene". Grand opera is obscenely expensive. That is a fact. If poverty is the issue, subsidy should not bring the poor to opera, but take opera to the poor.

Covent Garden has some things right. It is not about to make Paris's mistake, of building afresh and unworkable. The old is being updated, not destroyed. True, the echoes of a thousand dancing feet are to be silenced, the rafters stripped of the subliminal sounds ever heard. But the spirits of the place will survive. They will swirl round the old Piazza for a while, disoriented and forlorn. But their loyalty is to Covent Garden. In two years they will return to the same building, to reconcile the muse of song to new times.

So let us be generous to the old guard. They also paid their dues. They fought as best they knew to save a portion of British culture. They deserve renovation, rather than redevelopment. When the Great and Good come back from their sabbatical, they can have a grand reunion. On can go the air conditioning. The champagne can be warmed, the footmen liveried. As the music dies, this fancy-dress audience should stand stock still. The doors will then open and in can pour the occupants of the Piazza, to admire their elders' endurance and discipline.

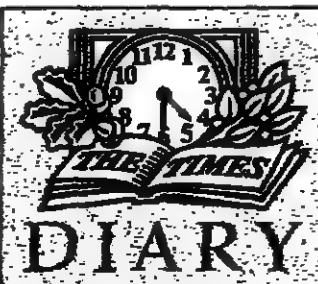
Books will record their deeds, "the divas massaged, the unions bribed, the subsidies cadged, above all the art preserved. For the new Covent Garden is a triumph for the old guard as well as the new. When Darcie Bussell closed the final curtain, Beauty was only put to sleep. After £200 million has been raised and spent, she will awake. I hope on that day it is the same Darcie Bussell who uncovers her marvellous frame and kisses the drama back to life.

Simon Jenkins

Going, going

IN all the wild speculation about the future of Diana, Princess of Wales, one theory rears above all others, with the possible exception of that put forward above by my colleague Alan Coren. It links her, her sons' stated wish for her to move abroad, her promise, only semi-revoked, of a surprise in the next two weeks, and her yacht host Mohamed Al Fayed. Could the Princess be planning a move to Paris? Not just anywhere in Paris, but to the house in the Bois de Boulogne once home to the Duke

and Duchess of Windsor and now owned by Al Fayed. Last week Al Fayed announced that he would be auctioning off the contents of the Windsors' old house at Sotheby's in New York in September, with the proceeds going to children's charities. The reason given was that, with four young children, his flat at the top of the house was getting cramped and he would need the space of the downstairs rooms, which he had restored to their condition when the Windsors lived there.



Michael Cole, Al Fayed's bullish spokesman, says the theory of the Princess moving in to the Windsors' old digs is phooey, the product of feverish journalistic minds in the South of France.

Those who are familiar with the thinking of the Princess and Al Fayed, however, say it would tickle the anti-establishment instincts of both of them to install Diana in the former home of the greatest of all the royal exiles. What is more, Paris has the advantage over New York, the other place spoken of as a possible future home for Diana, in being close enough to London for her to see her two sons regularly.

... Gone

MIA Farrow, the actress and serial child adopter, is the latest victim of the notorious curse of Hello!

magazine. In the latest issue, the actress is photographed "finding contentment at her new home in Ireland". The seven-page spread depicts Farrow and children in various states of rustic bliss in County Wicklow. But, no sooner has Farrow paid homage to flat caps and Guinness than reports say that she has fled Ireland because her rural retreat is less of a retreat than a press conference, with reporters hammering on the door asking about her friendship with the playwright Tom Stoppard. The two have been spotted going for long walks together.



That must be D's surprise, she's not in the papers

A source on the set of her latest movie *Miracle at Midnight*, which was shot in Ireland, said: "Mia was extremely annoyed when she discovered her privacy was being wrecked and decided it was time to seek peace and quiet elsewhere."

Perennial

FEARING that his 88th birthday this week might be his last, the Queen's dress designer, Sir Hardy Amies, has decided to throw a party. More than 300 guests have been invited to view his autumn/winter collection in Savile Row today, and a further 100 are requested to attend The Old School House, his home in Langford, Gloucestershire, this weekend for cocktails.

Yesterday the designer was being modest. "I wanted to do something because I might not be around next year. But it's all very low key — most of the guests will just be local gentry." One client who will not be sending Sir Hardy a card is the Queen. "Her Majesty never remembers me," he sighs.

There may be a quite rational explanation to the confusion over what exactly Diana, Princess of Wales, told the Royal reporters observing her holiday on Monday. Having been reported as say-

ing she had a surprise in store, her office in London yesterday issued a semi-denial. Looking at the pictures of her in her motor launch making her original remarks to the reporters, it is noticeable that not one of them appears to have either a tape recorder or notebook to hand.

Never again

LIFE as a television talking head is not for William Dalrymple, the travel writer. On Monday night he was sporting a tandoori tan at the Turtle Key Arts Centre, in Fulham, at the launch party of *Liberty or Death: India's Journey to Independence and Division*, by his close friend Patrick French. The highlight of the evening came when a copy of the book was propelled into the Fulham night from a clay-pigeon trap. Not that Dalrymple, known at Cambridge as "Dribble", was to be humoured.

He has just finished work filming a six-part documentary on the Indian partition for on Channel 4. "It was awful," he said between puffs on a cheroot. "I was up at five, then worked for 12 hours and managed to get only one hour's work completed — and that was the pretty embarrassing. From now on I will stick to print."

P.H.S

Seduced by the Centre

Michael Gove on a persuasive new analysis of Blairism

It is a curious Government that indulges a Prince's ideas but would prohibit his main pastime, allows 16-year-olds to enjoy homosexual acts but not Silk Cut, and takes pride in SAS assassination but protests its foreign policy is moral. All the old tools of analysis seem obsolete when confronted with the Protean nature of Blairism, neither Left nor Right, neither raucously populist nor stringently high-minded, puritan yet promiscuous.

Never has a new leader so bedazzled since, well, since Margaret Thatcher. The differences between her and her predecessors left commentators struggling to identify what she was about: liberal or authoritarian, radical or reactionary, class warrior or meritocrat?

The clearest analysis of what Thatcherism was came from the Left. Her grasp of history and ideological purpose were, initially, better appreciated by a small group of Communists than by the mass of Conservatives. Marquis such as Stuart Hall, Martin Jacques and, most presciently, Eric Hobsbawm, understood the reasons for her success.

They were the first to appreciate how she would recast British society, the first, and best-placed, to realise how she managed her party on Leninist terms. In contrast, the mass of members of the Tory Party could respond to her only emotionally — they reacted to her guts deep in their.

Now, if you want to understand what new Labour is, as distinct from who it is, there is reason to look to the Right. Marxists in the 1980s saw the *Zeitgeist*, and the Labour Party, desert them; but the theoretical skills they had developed enabled some of them to understand their opponent with uncanny vision.

A generation on, one of the few consolation Tories adjusting to Opposition still have is a cadre of thinkers. MPs such as Oliver Letwin and David Willetts, and academics such as Robert Skidelsky and Roger Scruton, have minds equipped to analyse Blairism, an absolute precondition of defeating it, or at least providing a foil.

An early, and impressive contribution, to delineating the Blairite mind comes from the Tory think-tank *Politeia* in a new, and teasingly anonymous pamphlet, *The Dominance of Centristism and the Politics of Certainty*.

The pamphlet identifies one of the salient qualities of new Labour's discourse, "centristism". It finds its expression in the constant erection of outdated opposites, which new Labour rejects in favour of a snappy synthesis. In education, that means rejecting the old Left's notion of mixed-ability teaching as comprehensive and the new Right obsession with selection by ability to come up with schools still comprehensive, but with classes graded by ability.

The centrist position is supposedly attractive because it is the triumph of "common sense" over ideology. In the real world, however, ideology has triumphed over common sense. The centre occupied by Mr Blair now is very different from the centre of 15 years ago. Blairites argue they have changed because "the world has changed" but that did not happen by accident. Centres no longer hold because ideologues, from Keith Joseph to Charles Murray, have shifted the argument.

To balance and reconcile, rather than to think from first principles, makes politics a process of calculation rather than a journey of conviction. The impression of strong leadership is, however, communicated by the "centrist" Government because, having identified the golden mean as the only path, there is no need to agonise about implementation, when one can simply order compliance. The Blair Government is capable of producing an Education White Paper which is much more ambitious in scope than anything tried by John Major because of the certainty as the top that the right "balance" has finally been struck. The progressives and free-marketisers have failed, so the right course is traditional teaching, centrally controlled.

Would that it were so. There is no reason to doubt the Government's embrace of rigour and standards. If there's madness it's in their method. As Lord Skidelsky has pointed out, the precedents for establishing central control of teaching in a free society are not encouraging. The only effective modernisers hitherto who have brought order to chaotic classrooms from their own desks have been Napoleon Bonaparte and Stalin. Both were, of course, in their own way strong men of the centre picking up the pieces after divisive ideological experiments.

Irony aside, both Skidelsky and the author of *The Dominance of Centristism* recognise that in education now, like industry in the 1980s, it is choice and the spur of competition which best guarantees excellence. The market has not failed education, it has never been tried.

The author of *The Dominance of Centristism* believes the suffocating certainties of a Government determined to order and regulate will create a demand for a party committed to pluralism. If his analysis of the durability of that demand is right, and nature abhors a vacuum, then the logical consequence is a Conservative Party of a more libertarian temperament, a party that will not regulate pleasures on fields or in bedrooms, will not moralise abroad or cajole at home, but trust to the good sense of the lightly governed. If the pressure of political competition produced such a party, then true liberals, such as the author of this pamphlet, would find a home and a vindication.



Diana: will she be moving in to the Windsors' old Paris home?



Dead girl's award to be challenged

Shell life

Laundrette blast

Novel homicide

Curious case

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SIXES AND SEVENS

The new grading of teachers will be too imprecise

Matthew Arnold, perhaps Britain's most famous school inspector, understood the problems of grading teachers even in Victorian times. Teachers, he said, "are the greatest gainers by a system of reporting, which clearly states what they do and what they fail to do; not one which drowns all success and failure, the able and inefficient, in a common flood of vague approbation". More than a century later, it is this culture of vague approbation that the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) is fighting against. Whether its proposed changes in assessment will help is another matter.

At the moment, teachers are graded by Ofsted inspectors on a sliding scale from one (excellent) to seven (unsatisfactory). The trouble is that inspectors are loath to award sixes and sevens. These grades necessitate a confrontation with the teacher concerned and extra attendance at the teacher's lessons. Worst of all, for some inspectors, is the thought of the consequences that might follow for the poor teacher.

As a result, only 88 out of 4,900 teachers inspected were given such a grade last year, according to the latest Ofsted report, less than 2 per cent of the total. Ofsted's proposed solution is to reduce the number of grades to three: with teachers who formerly would have been marked one or two in the top set, three and four in the middle, and five, sixes and sevens at the bottom. The idea is that inspectors will be less reluctant to award the bottom grade where it is due.

Ofsted will continue to grade lessons on a seven-point scale, which will provide useful information to the head. But the blurring of distinctions in the teacher assessments seems to be a move away from the honest practices that Matthew Arnold praised. There is a difference, which should be recognised, between a teacher who is good and one who is excellent. It should also be possible to distinguish between one who is a

little worse than average and another who should not be allowed near a classroom. A headteacher needs to be told whether the inspectors think that a teacher's career can be rescued with a little remedial training, or whether it merits a P45.

If inspectors are reluctant to divulge this information, Ofsted's proposed solution is an admission of defeat. The problem should be soluble at source. If former teachers, who make up the bulk of the inspectorate, are oversympathetic, perhaps the lay representation should be increased. Ofsted needs to recruit more inspectors who share the Government's "zero tolerance of failure", and are concerned more about the children than the staff.

Certainly inspectors and teachers should be reassured that a bad Ofsted grade cannot alone destroy a career. Headteachers, who work with their staff day in and year out, should know them better than a stranger who sits in on a few lessons in the course of a week's inspection. An Ofsted grade can be a useful confirmation of a head's own assessment; but if it is undeserved, the head will be the first to know. The function of Ofsted, like that of a management consultant, is to reinforce what managers already realise or suspect, and to give them ammunition to make the necessary changes.

To headteachers, the most useful reform will be a streamlining of disciplinary proceedings for teachers, as outlined by Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, in May. He wants to see incompetent teachers sacked, and would like the time that this takes to be cut from an average of 18 months to six. Teachers' unions should welcome this move. If they want to be treated as a profession, they should be as intolerant of low standards as any other group of professionals. Only then will they be able to restore the professional pride and respect that teaching deserves.

THE COSTS OF DIVISION

Cyprus cannot maintain the status quo

For the first time for years there is a glimmer of good news from Cyprus. President Clerides briefed Tony Blair yesterday on his recent talks with Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, saying that the "Trafalgar meeting" — astiduously prepared by the United Nations and British and American special envoys — had yielded encouraging results. The two men, former colleagues in colonial days, renewed their acquaintance in total seclusion. They made enough progress to agree to further meetings in Nicosia to resolve urgent humanitarian questions. And they will meet again for constitutional talks in Switzerland next month.

Given the repeated failure of earlier meetings, diplomats are wary of any talk of a breakthrough. But it does seem possible that this time they have got the formula right. Using the example of Dayton, they have eschewed palliatives and partial resolutions and have proposed a complete package — for a lasting settlement. This includes steps to establish a "bizonal, bicomunal federation, a redrawing of the map to reduce the Turkish area from 37 to 28 per cent, return or compensation for refugees and the withdrawal of the 36,000 Turkish troops. If the package were agreed, its implementation would be phased, with specific timetables for a referendum, the new constitutional arrangements and the troop withdrawal.

Harmonising the diplomatic efforts needed to get this far is in itself an achievement. Britain and America each appointed hard-headed former diplomats — Sir David Hannay and Richard Holbrooke — and the United Nations has turned to Diego Cordovez, the former Ecuadorian

Foreign Minister who successfully negotiated the exit of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. They have co-ordinated the pressure on the two community leaders, making a walkout by either costly. They have taken advantage of the European Union's forthcoming accession negotiations to focus Cypriot attention. And they have made clear to both communities, especially to Mr Denktas, that the status quo is increasingly uncomfortable and untenable.

Both sides must now submit draft constitutions as a basis for the final round of negotiations after the Greek Cypriot presidential elections. The make-or-break talks come next year. Much could go wrong before then. On both sides there are hardliners and rejectionists: politicians such as former President Kyprianou among the Greek Cypriots and nationalist "grey wolves" on the Turkish side. Public opinion is deeply cynical and can swiftly be manipulated if fresh incidents occur on the green line. Mr Denktas's commitment to a settlement is unclear, and he may believe that he can fall back on the alternative — a Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus ever more closely integrated with Turkey. And the Greek side has not renounced its plans to deploy Russian missiles, although diplomats believe that such a suicidal step is unlikely as long as talks continue.

Britain, with sovereign bases and a large UN presence on Cyprus and some 350,000 Cypriots living here, has a vital interest in a settlement. Mr Blair made clear yesterday that this country will underpin any measure to rebuild confidence between the two communities. Division has gone on too long, at too high a cost.

GOLDEN OLDIES

A good excuse for a celebration

We are living through a golden age for golden weddings. In glorious summer sunshine, a garden party took place yesterday at Buckingham Palace for some 4,000 fortunate couples chosen by ballot from among those who, like the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, celebrate their 50th anniversary this year. Across the country, 36,000 other aureate couples have received a letter of congratulation from the Sovereign and her Consort. The monarchy shows itself to best advantage in such discreet yet munificent displays of national solidarity. What, though, are we supposed to be celebrating?

First, the institution of matrimony. Fifty years ago, there was anxiety about divorce, as hasty wartime alliances then ended in only one in ten marriages then ended in divorce; the figure has more than trebled since. There are many explanations for this change, not all of them self-deceiving; but those couples whose vows have stood the test of time have every reason to rejoice. They are likely to have married younger than most couples do today, but also to have lived longer than their predecessors: the first NHS generation has had a good innings. Though life expectancy will doubtless rise further, it may not keep pace with a falling birthrate, later nuptials and greater divorce. So it could be a while before we see so many golden weddings again.

We are also celebrating the postwar British renaissance. It takes an effort to imagine ourselves back to July 1947, even for those who remember. Attlee's Labour Gov-

ernment tried to run a war economy in peacetime, and even bread was rationed for the first time. Shortages afflicted almost everyone: that July *The Times*, like other newspapers, was obliged to cut its size for the second time in a year, and in September women were urged to wear shorter skirts to save material.

It was no great summer for honeymoons abroad: exchange controls were draconian, while affordable air travel and package holidays belonged to the future. It had been easier to make a virtue of Britain's island status during the war. After the euphoria of victory had come disillusionment: building the socialist Jerusalem was an uphill task, and the Cold War had just begun. Amid Europe's ruins, dark visions of past and future were taking shape. Primo Levi's *If This is a Man* and Albert Camus's *The Plague* appeared that year; George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-four* followed in 1949.

Yet 1947 was not a bad dawn in which to be alive: the year of the Marshall Plan and Dior's New Look; the year when American musicals hit the West End and Edinburgh held its first international festival. Even in the most straitened circumstances, to be young is very heaven. For those whose marriages have now ripened into old age, it will always remain a year of grace.

Last, but not least, we celebrate the lives and loves of the jubilee couples. Their children and grandchildren may not always follow their example, but the golden oldies remain an inspiration for the whole nation.

Realities of power in Hong Kong

From Sir Robin McLaren

Sir, Jonathan Dimbleby's privileged and openly partisan account of Mr Christopher Patten's governorship of Hong Kong will no doubt give rise to many articles similar in tone to Simon Jenkins's, "The Governor, treason and plot" (July 12; see also letters, July 1, 7). Allegations of betrayal and Foreign Office conspiracies always make good copy.

I led the British team during the abortive negotiations with China about Mr Patten's electoral reforms in 1993. I supported what he was trying to achieve then, and have done so since. But these are not black and white questions. Time alone will tell whether the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people, which are what matters, will have been reinforced or damaged by the bitter disputes with China of the last few years.

What is deplorable and offensive is the imputation that the ministers, governors and officials responsible for the handling of Hong Kong affairs before Mr Patten's appointment had no interest in the cause of democracy in Hong Kong, seeing it as a distraction from the proper business of cultivating good relations with China.

From the signature of the Joint Declaration in 1984 onwards a key issue for British policymakers was not whether to develop democratic institutions in Hong Kong but how to do so in a way which would not only meet the aspirations of people in Hong Kong but last beyond the change of sovereignty.

In the 1980s the Government's judgment was that that objective was best achieved by working so far as possible with the Chinese who were then drafting the Basic Law, a process which the Government quite properly wished to influence.

Dimbleby revives the old charge that a sounding of Hong Kong opinion in 1987 was fudged, leading to the postponement of the first direct elections in the territory from 1988 to 1991. He argues in his book, *The Last Governor*, that if direct elections had been held in 1988, without Chinese agreement, it is "almost inconceivable" that China would have defied the world by "openly dismembering a democratic process which... enjoyed widespread support in the community". Sadly, the only evidence points the other way: the Chinese have dismantled the legislature freely elected in 1995, despite strong international and Hong Kong protests.

There is room for more than one view about how Britain should have handled its responsibilities for Hong Kong in face of the stark reality that China has always had the power to impose its will. It is important that the debate should be conducted calmly and objectively. Blanket charges of dishonourable conduct do not increase the credibility of those who make them.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN MCLAREN
(British Ambassador to China, 1994-95)
11 Hillside, Wimbledon, SW19, July 12

From Lord Hurd
Sir, The debate about Hong Kong seems in danger of getting out of hand. I know of no justification for headlines about betrayal, treason or plot.

It was possible honourably to advise ministers that in 1992 and 1993 we should negotiate in secret with the Chinese on the shape of the Legislative Council, and accept the most democratic arrangement to which they would agree. Chris Patten, John Major and I had a different view, which prevailed. I believe that we were right. But I did not and do not question for a moment the integrity of those who differed.

Yours faithfully,
HURD
House of Lords, July 14

Fruits of experience

From Mr Morcom Lunt

Sir, The 1957 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition was documented in the 1958 book of the same name by Sir Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary. John Lewis was the expedition's chief pilot. When he was measured for his windproofs, the authors record that he announced gleefully: "I'm 42-44-46. Call me Pearl!"

I would suggest that the phrase "going pear-shaped" now means an unwelcome, but not wholly unexpected outcome, such as a lean young man of 40-28-34 becoming 42-44-46. And, as previous correspondents have pointed out (letters, July 7, 10, 12), the phrase can apply equally well to all manner of human endeavour.

Yours sincerely,
MORCOM LUNT,
7A Adams Road, Cambridge, July 14

From Mr Duncan Bryson

Sir, My *Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins* by Nigel Rees (Cassell, 1996) defines pear-shaped as: "Out of control, chaotic. Because it is a collapse from the perfect sphere."

Yours sincerely,
DUNCAN BRYSON,
109 Martin Avenue,
Irvine, Ayrshire, July 12

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Bill of Rights and role of judiciary

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, John Mackenzie (letter, July 11) suggests that a Bill of Rights would not answer his client's problem about the unfairness of the courts-martial system. I am sure that the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law will not cure all our ills and that the rights in the Convention need to be improved on with a domestic Bill of Rights. Nevertheless the Government's proposal to incorporate it will contribute significantly to the protection of human rights in this country.

Whether the new system would have helped Mr Mackenzie's client will depend first on whether our judges are properly trained in the law of the Convention and are committed to make decisions in line with international human-rights jurisprudence. Secondly, Parliament needs to ensure that the Act that incorporates the Convention is given sufficient status so that the courts can ensure that laws are applied without violating human rights. This may mean adopting the Canadian system, which preserves parliamentary sovereignty whilst protecting rights. If Canadian courts have to resolve a conflict between their charter of rights and other legislation, charter rights are given precedence.

The statute is rarely struck down; instead the courts either "read in" the missing rights or make it clear that in the particular circumstances part of the statute no longer applies. Parliament can then choose to re-enact the statute, adding a clause stating that the provision applies "notwithstanding" the charter. Fortunately the Canadian Parliament rarely takes this action.

If this system had been in place Mr Mackenzie's client could have received the justice he deserved in the courts in this country.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director,
The National Council for Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1, July 11

From Professor Peter Rowe

Sir, Whilst I have great respect for the views of John Mackenzie I do not feel that he has been entirely fair to the judges who, he comments, "go to great lengths to avoid disrupting state administration, particularly for some reason in matters involving the Armed Forces".

Mr Mackenzie draws attention to the proceedings in the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division in the *Findlay* case, where leave to apply for judicial review was refused. The point raised by Mr Mackenzie.

Smoking debate

From Mrs Jacqui Lait

Sir, Your debate about tobacco advertising and sponsorship (report and leading article, July 14) under-age children, particularly girls, are assumed to be attracted by the lifestyles implied by the tobacco companies. I am afraid that is too easy.

Some children passing through puberty use tobacco as a prop to help establish them as independent people, to deal with their uncertainties and confusions and to challenge the "grown-ups". If tobacco is made harder to obtain, they will replace it with something else that will still challenge the norms of adult society.

While our tobacco duty remains so much higher than that on the Continent, and every Budget increases the differential, the smuggling and bootlegging of tobacco will continue to be hugely profitable. Children will continue to be able to get hold of tobacco products cheaply.

History shows that the only way to stop smuggling is to take the profit out of it. If the Government seriously wants to reduce tobacco consumption, health ministers could be more usefully engaged in persuading their continental counterparts to put up customs duties, rather than taking the easy but more high-profile option of banning advertising.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUI LAIT
(Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye, 1992-97),
Leasam Grange, Leasam Lane,
Rye Foreign, East Sussex, July 14

Pay as you learn

From Dr Anthony Clayton

Sir, Obviously if universities charge tuition fees of £1,000 a year or more (article, "Payment by degrees", July 9), students from poorer families will face difficulties that are perhaps insuperable.

How about a National Scholarship Fund funded from the National Lottery?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY CLAYTON,
De Montfort University,
Institute for the Study of War and Society,
Pothill Avenue, Bedford, July 11

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Missing names from curtain call

From Sir Peter Hall

Sir, As you report today, the last night of the Royal Opera House on July 14 was a great celebration; but the heart sank when the speeches began.

The chairman of the development appeal (Vivien Duffield) thanked the past and present chairmen of the board and those who had given money to the building fund; the present chairman thanked the past chairman, the appeals chairman, the audience, and finally the artists.

But of the names of the three great administrators and general directors of the past 50 years — David Webster (1944-70), John Tooley (1970-88) and Jeremy Isaacs (1988-97) — there was not a mention. These were the men who, against all the odds and with the indifference of successive governments, have created a great institution.

The Royal Opera House wouldn't be there to rebuild if it wasn't for them. Webster with his vision, Tooley with his tenacity and Isaacs with his cannyness have been true professionals in an amateur world.

If you run a national institution you must, like Nelson on his column, expect the attention of passing pigeons. But you are entitled to a little named support from the home team.

Yours,
PETER HALL
(Director, The Peter Hall Company,
The Old Vic, Waterlawn Road, SE1, July 15)

Classical acting

From Mr David Suchet

Sir, I am very aware that the standards of verse-speaking in our classical dramas are declining (report and leading article, July 9). Sadly nowhere is it more evident than in our major national companies, although I note that the Royal National Theatre is responding to the challenge (letter, July 14).

Might I humbly suggest that the Royal Shakespeare Company, in particular, creates a postgraduate drama school where training in verse-speaking for actors who wish to act in classical repertoire could be most successfully undertaken.

Originally the Guildhall School of Speech and Drama was intended to be linked with the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican. This failed to happen. I sympathise with drama schools in that they have to produce actors for our modern world, but the classics, and Shakespeare in particular, are our greatest theatrical heritage and part of any actor's repertoire has to be the skill of verse-speaking.

Yours etc,
RICHARD A. EDWARDS,
60 Queen's Road, Devizes, Wiltshire,
edwards@lawlinks.org,
July 11

From the Executive Director,
Industry Affairs, of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association

Sir, Your leading article yesterday (and thus Mr Gerald Solomon's letter today commenting on it) stated that cigarettes can be legally purchased at 16. They can actually be purchased at any age. The law is concerned with their sale, which is restricted to the over-16s. The law as it relates to alcohol, unlike tobacco, concerns both seller and purchaser.

Making 18 the age at which tobacco can legally be sold is no good in isolation, since controlling the sale of fireworks, scratch cards, lottery tickets and alcohol is difficult enough with no identity-card system to help retailers. Ask any shopkeeper.

Moreover, right now, young people can marry and start a family at 16, join the Armed Services at 17, get a driving licence at 17, be sold fireworks, lottery tickets, solvents and knives at 16. Being required to wait until 18 for the legal sale of tobacco seems anomalous.

To reduce the incidence of teenage smoking, which is currently running at 0.7 per cent of the market, is a societal aim which should be shared by government, educators, parents, the tobacco industry, its retailers, and the youngsters themselves. It requires an holistic approach with no finger pointing solely at the industry.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE TURNER,
Executive Director,
Industry Affairs,
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association,
55 Tufton Street, SW1,
July 15

Childrearing costs

From Councillor George Richey

Sir, Your headline (July 10, earlier editions), "Sterilised mother who had baby wins £100,000", was faced on the opposite page, heading an article on the cost of bringing up a child, with "Why parents are £50,000 out of pocket".

An indication of future inflation perhaps.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE RICHEY,
The Milcroft,
West Felton, Shropshire.

Further to your letter

From Mr Roger Conkson

Sir, Please publish this letter. I am old, sad and unbearably lonely, and would derive maximum benefit (on all fronts) from an anonymous Fortnum & Mason hamper (letter, July 15).

Yours, in anticipation of imminent relief,
ROGER CONKSON,
20 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11, July 15

GIANNI VERSACE

Gianni Versace, Italian fashion designer, was shot dead at his Miami Beach mansion yesterday aged 50. He was born in Reggio Calabria on December 2, 1946.

Perceived as a somewhat gritty, brash alternative to his great competitor Giorgio Armani, Gianni Versace will be remembered in the Anglo-Saxon world as the creator of "that dress" — the notorious creation which spectacularly failed to conceal the curves of the actress/model Elizabeth Hurley when she accompanied Hugh Grant to the London premiere of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* in 1994. Certainly, he made no secret of his contempt for his more couture-orientated rival. For one thing, it was good for business to say of the Milanese Armani: "He is north, I am south, there is nothing to discuss."

In Italy, where bourgeois Roman and Milanese girls flee to Calabria and Sicily in the summer with the express purpose of losing their virginity to the swarthy southern men, such opinions acted as a mild form of aphrodisiac. Twelve years younger than Armani, Versace had a reputation as an *enfant terrible* in a fashion-conscious country which was, at the time he began to exhibit, going into overdrive in its belated sexual revolution.

Yet, in truth, as a designer Versace was, like Armani, a man wedded to line and form. Like all the masters of his craft, he started with an instinctive flair for appreciating and then draping the contours of the female body.

At the heart of his craft was an awareness of the innate elegance of the clothes of the southern Italian women, among whom he had grown up. His youth, passed in the hot Calabrian towns of Bagnara, Scilla and Seminara, presented this visually sensitive boy with the constant parade of feminine elegance in the evening *passaggiata* — that time of day when the village beauties parade, arm in arm, in their finery, as admiring young men stand and gaze.

Versace grew up on a diet of severe, pleated skirts, topped



with bodices of ravishing colour, spangled with splashes of gold and coloured stones. "In making her bodice, every woman seemed to give vent to some secret joy," he was later to say. And when he came to drape the likes of Madonna, Bianca Jagger, Linda Evangelista and Lisa Marie Presley, he never forgot the principle of cut, no matter what fireworks he might accompany it with. If his clothes sometimes seemed designed merely to fall off, they never did — and that was part of the allure.

His "bad boy" image was reinforced by the verbal liberties he took with the most famous ladies of his times. Of Drew Barrymore: "She's crazy, she's nuts." She should never be overdone — she's

already hyper." Of Uma Thurman: "She can only wear Versace, I promise you! She looks dead in other clothing!" Of Wynona Ryder: "She has minimal taste in fashion. She has to let herself come out more." None of which pronouncements, of course, did any harm to the Versace tills.

After leaving school in Reggio Calabria, Gianni Versace worked at first for his mother, who was a dressmaker. Like all the best Italian designers, he learnt the basic virtues of cutting and stitching from her. In 1972 he decided to move to the Italian fashion capital, Milan, where he worked initially as a designer for companies such as Genny, Complice and Callaghan, creating ready-to-wear collections for them. His own first collec-

tion was of leather goods, for Complice, in 1975 and he followed this up in 1978 with the first women's collection signed with his own name. This brought him golden opinions within the intensely competitive Milan fashion coterie.

A collaboration with the American photographer Richard Avedon was to prove fortunate. Self-publicity, a thing he was to prove exceedingly good at, began at that point, and when he won the *L'Occhio d'Oro* award for the best fashion designer of the 1982-83 autumn/winter season, he was truly on his way.

But he was careful not to cultivate a purely "bimbo" image. He established intellectual credentials through his creation of costumes for Rich-

ard Strauss's ballet *Josephine* for La Scala in 1983, and followed this, in the following year, with costume designs for Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and for the ballet *Dionysos*, directed by Maurice Béjart. He received an unusual accolade when Béjart created a three-part dance in his honour, on the occasion of the launch of the fragrance for men "Versace l'Homme".

In the overheated atmosphere of the fashion world, Versace was granted a "major retrospective" of his work in 1986, by the National Field Museum in Chicago, to the astonishment of artists working in other visual fields. A grateful Italy bestowed on him the honour of *Commendatore della Repubblica Italiana*.

As his clientele became more exotic and his life more international, he set up homes in Miami, Como, Milan and New York, and showrooms in Paris, London, Berlin. Versace demonstrated a tendency to become more outrageous about his fellow practitioners in the fashion field. Milan, which had launched him, was suddenly "boring". Italian women, from whom he had learnt his craft and his notions of visual sublimity, looked "like secretaries".

While other designers sought to reduce the cost of their fashion shops, he paid out fees which sent the cost of hiring supermodels soaring. He loved to hang out with rock and movie stars, to many of whom his Milan apartment was a second home. He was a friend of Elton John, whom he had accompanied on one of his world tours, and was much involved with crusading on behalf of AIDS sufferers.

He was close to his sister Donatella, who was his indispensable support. They often went disco dancing together while their brother Santo, who ran the financial side of the Versace affairs, retired to bed early.

In his latter shows, after shock tactics, such as that of the revealing Hurley dress, had outworn their appeal (and been revealed as, in retrospect, somewhat tacky gestures) his style had seemed to return closer to its couture based roots.

He never married.

Felix Barker, theatre and film critic and author, died on July 11 aged 80. He was born on May 7, 1917.

THERE was a brief period in the late 1960s when the populist approach of London's *Evening News*, then still a broadsheet, and the style of Felix Barker, its drama and cinema critic, in addition to being its leading feature writer, seemed to be in complete harmony.

Barker had the ability to enliven any story by taking the reader right to its heart. His particular passion was history and, whether it was discovering the love letters of Eleanor Marx or retracing the steps of William the Conqueror, his very enthusiasm tended to carry the narrative along.

Barker was quintessentially an old Fleet Street hand. He once boasted he knew the location of every public telephone box in central London and would demonstrate his trick of propping the door open with an old penny piece. (He used to do this while he dictated his copy to catch the final edition.) His was the Fleet Street of the old metal printing, hard lunchtime drinking, unscrutinised expenses and tall tales of scraps and journalistic derring-do.

He had talked his way into a staff job on the *Evening News* at the age of 19, showing the Editor an article about his experiences at school, some amateur rugby coverage (in which one F. Barker occasionally scored the winning try) and displaying an utter determination to be a journalist.

He served his time as a junior reporter on the news desk. But it was as a feature writer that he first made his impact and as a drama critic, from 1958, that he gained the respect of the theatrical profession. He loved the theatre — and the stage, a calling notoriously hostile to critics, seemed prepared to accept him. He himself always argued that a good critic had to "get it right" — by which he meant more than just being in tune with the consensus.

He was proud to serve as president of the Critics' Circle in 1974. He was doubly qualified for such a position, for he had become the film critic of the *Evening News* in 1960 at



the age of 43. He was one of the very few Fleet Street critics to turn in film and theatre reviews in tandem.

Educated at Felsted School in Essex, Richard Felix Barker was the son of a water-colourist and a photographer. When painting failed to provide a sufficiently profitable living, his father took to restoring portraits, doing them up very much in the William Morris manner.

His son's first big break came in 1935 when, at the age of 18, he was sent as an English Speaking Union scholar to Choate School in Connecticut. He spent a year there, meeting Americans ranging from Alan Jay Lerner (a classmate) to Thornton Wilder and George Gershwin.

Called up at the age of 22, after three years on the *Evening News*, he had a comparatively easy war in the Gordon Highlanders, where his habit of writing his letters home on an old Corcoran was soon noticed by Battalion HQ and got him transferred into a cushy billet in the Orderly Room. From there he plotted his escape into joining a concert party known as the Balmorals, who included Ian Carmichael, Bunny Playfair and Stephen Mitchell.

This gave him writing as well as performing experience

and later on, as the *Evening News* gradually dumbed down, Barker took to writing books. He produced the first biography of Laurence Olivier and his then wife Vivien Leigh, *The Oliviers* (1953), and also wrote the history of the Coliseum, *The House That Stall Built* (1956). His magnum opus, however, was an illustrated history of the capital, modestly entitled *London: 2,000 Years of a City and its People*. He had worked on it for more than a decade and it stayed in print for 25 years.

The *Evening News* merged with the *Evening Standard* in 1960, and Barker found himself redundant just two years before his retiring date. He threw himself into writing further books, mainly about London, but they risked becoming portobelloes. He continued to write for a number of papers, including *The Times*, *The Sunday Telegraph* and the *Evening Standard*. Yet he was happiest in his library at Blackheath, researching his series of works about the capital, the last of which was *Edwardian London* (1995).

He leaves a widow, Anthea, who was an invaluable support in many of his projects, and a son. His daughter, a theatrical publicist, died in 1992.

RON SMYTH

Ron Smyth, racehorse trainer, died on July 4, aged 81. He was born on November 18, 1915.

ALTHOUGH best-known latterly as a shrewd and successful Epsom trainer, Ron Smyth had previously enjoyed a shining career as a National Hunt

jockey, and fifty years ago his name was a byword for skill and strength in the saddle. He rode the winner of the Champion Hurdle three times, an achievement matched only twice since, and bettered in the history of the race only by the late Tim Molony's four victories.

Smyth's first success came in 1941 when he partnered Seneca, next, in the following season, he won with Forestation: in both cases Smyth timed his finish to perfection and got the better of the front-running Anarchist.

Then, in 1948, he rode that hero of the racing crowds,

National Spirit, who already had a Champion Hurdle to his credit, in the previous year, but with a different jockey aboard.

National Spirit was a spectacular jumper, standing back a long way from his hurdles and sailing over them with unbroken stride. His 1947 tri-

umph had nevertheless seen him, in the end, fully stretched to beat the French challenger, Le Pailion. In 1948 it was a little easier, but the result owed as much to Ron Smyth's judgment as to the horse's own stamina and fortitude.

Smyth sent him into the lead two hurdles out and then had to ride hard to withstand the challenge of DUKW, prevailing eventually by two lengths at the post, a bonus being that all three of Smyth's Champion Hurdles had been trained by Vic Smyth, his uncle.

Ronald Victor Smyth was born at Ramsbury, Wiltshire, the second son of Herbert Smyth, who was the son of a Lincolnshire steeplejack. Herbert Smyth had also been first a jockey and then a trainer. Herbert's three younger brothers were also trainers.

Smyth was apprenticed to his father and had his first ride on the Flat at the age of 12, and his first winner when he was only 14, on Maryland Point, at Newmarket in 1930. Increasing weight, however, brought his Flat career to an end, and his first winner over the jumps came on Windy at Wye in October 1933. As well as Champion Hurdles, his career included plenty of other successes including, at Cheltenham, the Gloucestershire Hurdle twice, and a treble at the 1947 Festival meeting. Over fences he several times won on Lord Bicester's great chaser and subsequent Gold Cup winner, Silver Fame. In



addition, in 1941-42, he was Champion National Hunt jockey, albeit with a total of only 12 winners, because of a very restricted wartime season which permitted only 18 days' racing.

In 1947, a year before he retired from the saddle, Smyth had taken out a licence to train a mixed string at Epsom, and one of his earliest triumphs was in the Imperial Cup with Master Bidar in 1951. Later he captured this valuable race twice more, with Irish Imp in 1962 and Flash Imp in 1974.

Meanwhile, also over the jumps, he had important successes at Cheltenham — twice winning the Triumph Hurdle

with, in 1961, Blarney Beacon and, in 1971, Boxer. (The latter, the following season was Champion Hurdle runner-up.) He also won the Cotswold Chase, in 1960, with Mazurka.

On the Flat, one of his best horses was HVC, who, as a two-year-old, claimed the distinction of beating the following season's Derby winner, Tulyar. Convamore was another good colt who came nearest to bringing Smyth classic honours when second to Meadow Court in the 1965 Irish Derby; he had previously won the King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot.

One of Smyth's great talents was in placing his horses in

handicaps, as well as making no secret of the fact that he often profited substantially with the bookmakers from their successes. A long list of important handicap winners include Prince Khalid Abdulla's Tremblant (Victoria Cup, Bunbury Cup and Cambridgehire in 1985); Flash Imp (Cesarewitch 1973 and Great Metropolitan 1975); Patient Constable (Stewards' Cup 1966); Grandeur (Dubluc Handicap 1972); Copale (Magnet Cup 1967) and Panpiper (Free Handicap, 1968). He retired from training in 1991.

Horses apart, Smyth was also a great trainer of apprentices. George Ramshaw and, in particular, Geoff Lewis, who was later partner of Mill Reef in that colt's scintillating progress and who enjoyed a brilliant career as a jockey, were two of them; more than once, Lewis paid handsome tribute to Smyth and the debt he owed him.

In his personal life, Ron Smyth was an immensely likeable man with a dry sense of humour as well as possessing a genial but no-nonsense approach to life and to his immense circle of friends. He did much to keep the image of Epsom as a training centre to the forefront. As a trainer, he was undoubtedly one of the old school with tough and professional standards.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, whom he married in 1940, and by their younger daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE

PERMANENT VILLAGE/STREET, 10 mins from town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 2 parking spaces, 2 storage areas, 2 garden areas, 2 terrace areas, 2 balcony areas, 2 patio areas, 2 pergola areas, 2 gazebo areas, 2 barbecue areas, 2 swimming pool areas, 2 hot tub areas, 2 sauna areas, 2 gym areas, 2 spa areas, 2 massage areas, 2 beauty salon areas, 2 hair salon areas, 2 nail salon areas, 2 tattoo parlor areas, 2 piercing parlor areas, 2 acupuncture areas, 2 chiropractic areas, 2 massage therapy areas, 2 yoga areas, 2 meditation areas, 2 tai chi areas, 2 karate areas, 2 judo areas, 2 martial arts areas, 2 sports areas, 2 recreation areas, 2 entertainment areas, 2 social areas, 2 dining areas, 2 kitchen areas, 2 living areas, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 2 parking spaces, 2 storage areas, 2 garden areas, 2 terrace areas, 2 balcony areas, 2 patio areas, 2 pergola areas, 2 gazebo areas, 2 barbecue areas, 2 swimming pool areas, 2 hot tub areas, 2 sauna areas, 2 gym areas, 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BBC governors, please stand up for our rights

The other night I heard something I never expected to hear — Michael Grade being boring. Such a showman, but he was so overwhelmed by his farewell salute from the Royal Television Society that he fell into interminably recounting the joys and sorrows of his career, and people were tiptoeing out at the back by the time he went on the attack.

Then he was on form. Is anyone happy working for the BBC, he asked. He prayed that his successor at Channel 4, Michael Jackson, would forget all the "management tosh" learnt at the BBC. He was appalled at what the administration is doing to the BBC. And what can you expect from the governors — worthies appointed in conditions of secrecy that owe more to masonic ceremony than to democracy?



BRENDA MADDOX

On July 34 the BBC governors will have another chance to show what they are made of. Will they dare call a halt to the radical changes proposed for Radio 4? Or will they fall for the management blarney about fossilisation, museum pieces, need to refurbish, new digital age ahead, etc. etc?

The governors should protest — yes, even resign — if they cannot achieve a reprieve, not for any particular programme, but rather for what looks like the wholesale disregard for the sensibilities of the audience. To take away one old favourite from listeners is to inflict pain to match away as many as 20 to inflict a trauma, an assault on habits and expectations that leaves people shocked, grieving, destabilised. As a frequent participant in *Start the Week*, one of the threatened programmes, I am often astonished at how many people do start their week with it: they read the books, they argue over the ideas and remember points they feel were mishandled or could have been made.

There is a great mass of Middle England that structures its day by Radio 4. Why should they, the BBC's staunchest defenders, lose so many landmarks at once? Because the audience figures drop in the long intervals between the news? Ridiculous. The main reason why audiences sag after *Today* is that by 9am people leave the house or have reached work. No scheduling sleight of hand is going to raise mid-morning and mid-afternoon to drive-time levels.

Something more sinister is afoot. I hope the governors have noticed. It is the BBC top brass's obsession with news. They cannot get enough of it, but viewers and listeners can. The much-vaunted success of Radio 5 Live comes from its sports coverage, not from its news. There is little or no demand for a 24-hour TV news network, for which plans are being advanced (with the word "digital" usually omitted, thus concealing the fact that few viewers will be able to watch it).

raised recently when the BBC organised its consultation exercise on the digital future did not slow down these plans. Rather, they are recorded in the BBC annual report — released last week — as "suggested modifications which those developing the services are taking into account". Even the beleaguered World Service is to be further undermined by a gratuitous adjunct of a 24-hour World Service News, an expensive novelty which can serve only to split the world audience and divert attention from all those fusty Kaleidoscope-type features on the older World Service.

An irony of the BBC's current thinking is that its leaders are quite willing to tolerate, even defend, an excess of news such as they provided during the general election. BBC1 *Nine O'Clock News* was extended for an hour while the viewers fled elsewhere. The BBC's answer was bold and proud: audience size is not important; public duty is what matters.

The same proud defence, however, was not available to the worthy flops in BBC drama, *Nostramo* and *Rhodes*. John Birt, the Director-General, has apologised for their disappointing failure. He said that the BBC must try for "greater consistency" in future.

What ever happened to the "right to fail"? That is what the BBC is there for — to take risks. In book publishing, in theatre and in cinema, it is axiomatic that most efforts fail but that the successes cover the failures. There simply is no reason to apologise for *Rhodes* and not for the election coverage.

The BBC governors should show that they can do more than rubberstamp what the managers put before them. In objecting to the shock about to be delivered to "the home of quality, intelligent speech radio" (BBC annual report again), they do not need to doubt the promise of the controller, James Boyle, that he is not "dumbing down" Radio 4. But they must consider the chance that he may be wrong.

Risks to a programme are not as dangerous as risks to the spirit of a network. This BBC management has once before disregarded cries of pain and grief among listeners when it dispensed with a raft of disc jockeys from Radio 1.

What was achieved? Radio 1 needed to bring in Chris Evans to stop the slide in audience figures. The cure proved worse than the disease and now, with Evans gone, Radio 1 is in trouble and bad news is said to be on the way with the next quarterly audience figures.

Radio 1 had lots of commercial competitors. Radio 4 has none. It is unique in the world, in its programmes and in the respect in which it is held by its listeners. They don't deserve the shock therapy that is promised.

The Client's Story

All the glory, or the blame, goes to the creatives and the agencies when a new advert appears. But what of the person who bought the ad, the person who said yes, the person with nerves of steel, the one who crossed their fingers and signed the cheque?

PEPSI



After Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, it's the Spice Girls' turn to improve Pepsi's sales

THE CLIENT
Simon Lowden, 29,
marketing manager,
PepsiCo International.

WHAT OTHER CAMPAIGNS HAVE YOU BOUGHT?
Lynx (the one with the can rolling down the aisle of the bus), Brut (featuring Helena Christensen, Paul Giamatti).

THE AGENCY:
Abbot Mead Vickers
BDDO.

WHAT'S THE PLOT?
The Spice Girls sing a new track called *Move Over* ("Move over, next stage, next time, next place, move over") while gyrating in front of buildings, throwing cans in the air. It's shot in LA.

WHAT'S THE STRATEGY?
We are the cola for youth. We want to engage young minds.

WAS IT EXPENSIVE?
We got a deal at the end of last year with the Spice Girls. The actual figure is a moving number. It's a relationship with them. We get their fans and, in return, we're increasing their exposure in places they can't get to, such as Tesco, Sainsbury, etc. This summer we'll release a Spice Girls CD you can get only by collecting ring pulls. The actual advert itself cost the same as our other ads. A normal one costs about £200,000.

AT WHOM IS IT AIMED?
Our core market of 16 to 22-year-old men and women.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BLUE CAN? DIDN'T IT GO A BIT FLAT?
We still have it. It's a way of distinguishing ourselves from our

competitors. Last month was our highest brand share for three years. We had 20 per cent of the market.

WHAT ARE THE SPICE GIRLS LIKE?
Very trendy, very sociable. They're very down-to-earth people.

WHICH SPICEY IS YOUR FAVOURITE?
I love them all!

WHAT SOLD THE SCRIPT TO YOU?
The impact that the film would have in a saturated TV market. It lives and breathes Pepsi.

WHAT'S THE BEST AD YOU'VE BOUGHT?
A ten-second cinema film for Lynx Tempest about four years ago.

AND THE WORST?
Paul Gascoigne for Brut. He was totally wrong for a fragrance.

DAVID McGRATH

Hard sell going soft

Belinda Archer looks at how images of decency can change

A SHAPELY mini-skirted brunette sits in the passenger seat of an MG Midget, thoughtfully caressing the handbrake. The accompanying prose reads: "85 per cent of MG Midget owners are men. That means lots of girls will be relaxing in our new, thick, contoured seats — a scene we're sure will appeal to both driver and passenger."

Thus reads a press advertisement from the Fifties. Nowad, the flagrant portrayal of a woman as a sex object would draw the teeth of any advertising watchdog. At the time, however, it would have sailed breezily past the regulators, because the images were totally acceptable to a Fifties audience.

The Advertising Standards Authority, the body charged with monitoring all press and poster advertisements in the UK, is celebrating its 35th anniversary. In that time it has been gauging the sensibilities of the nation, dealing with complaints and ensuring that the industry's self-regulatory code of practice, drawn up in 1961, is fully observed.

This code states that all non-broadcast advertising should neither mislead nor offend and should be "legal, decent, honest and truthful". As the MG advert demonstrates, however, what is judged "decent" has changed quite dramatically since the early Sixties: hence the code has been regularly tweaked to reflect changing social and cultural mores, as well as shifts in consumer desire.

Alcohol is a particularly thorny area where the rules have been tightened. Such a vintage copypaste as "Guinness is good for you" would be thrown out now, on the basis that advertisers of alcoholic drinks can no longer make any health claims for their brands, nor can they suggest sexual fulfilment or enhanced sexual capabilities as a result of imbibing alcohol.

The portrayal of women has also demanded close ASA

attention. It used to be established practice for advertisers to use gratuitously curvy females who would be uncontrollably impressed if a man used product X. Similarly, it was deemed acceptable to depict happy housewives whose day was fulfilled by the gift of a vacuum cleaner or ironing board from an indulgent husband.

Now, of course, such ads would be deemed offensive and would trigger a fairly instant ASA ban.

Chris Reed, the external affairs manager at the ASA, comments: "The system of self-regulation revolves around enlightened self-interest. Advertisers know that misleading or offending people won't do them any good. Before this system, people didn't believe the ads they read, but having a watchdog acting on their behalf gives people more confidence in the ads that they do see."

Certainly, the rules controlling tobacco advertising have been redrawn almost beyond recognition. The Marlboro Man, a former advertising icon, with his rugged outdoor looks and bristling good health, would never see the light of day today. Tobacco advertising is the only area that is subject to compulsory pre-vetting.

Health claims have also been dramatically toned down since the days when adverts were allowed to tout their miracle cures and beautifying potions. It was claimed, for example, that Vigor's Horse Action Saddle — a sort of exercise bicycle — "stimulates the liver, reduces corpulence and cures gout". Any claims must now be backed by clinically-controlled trials.

As new issues and new media emerge, it may prove interesting to observe how the code controlling advertising standards develops. After all, in another 35 years, we could well be hooting with laughter at advertising from the Eighties and Nineties.

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Understanding of individual European markets and sensitivity to different cultures will be the key to success in these highly influential positions. In each case you will be a graduate in Marketing or Business Studies, with experience spanning 5 to 10 years or more in financial services — ideally including the running of consumer credit programmes and with in-depth

TAKE THE CREDIT
FOR EXPANDING OUR BUSINESS

European Marketing Management

Based: London

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The benefits, in terms of rewards and career development within this world renowned organisation, will fully reflect your contribution to the continuing success of Visa throughout Europe.

If you can combine a broad vision with the close focus needed to identify and exploit new opportunities, please apply by 27th July, quoting ref: PFST/3, to: European, 10 Heath Villa, The Vale of Health, London NW3 1AW. Fax: 0171 435 3369.



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As part of its international development, a renowned UK organization is looking for an international sales manager to generate sales in Europe. You will be responsible for field sales, visits and developing major European sales strategies. You will spend a significant proportion of your time travelling outside the UK.

We are looking for people with broad European sales experience in a technical consultancy based service market, and a demonstrated ability to interpret the business needs of customers into solutions, resulting in sales. You must be able to communicate effectively in at least one major European language as well as English. It would also be an advantage to have a knowledge of environmental topics.

Our diverse organization is an Equal Opportunities employer, and is seeking to achieve excellence through its most valuable resource — the people it employs.

We are keen to hear from all suitably qualified men and women and will select only on the basis of ability, qualifications and suitability to do the work. We guarantee an interview to all disabled applicants who meet the minimum stated criteria.

We would also like to hear from other applicants who might be interested in related positions in international or European sales and marketing.

RAS

Applications must be received by 11 August 1997.

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Views are worlds apart

Tomorrow the future of the BBC World Service will be debated at Westminster Central Hall. Here opposing speakers state their views



The old World Service was about reaching a maximum audience, not making the maximum amount of money

A YEAR ago the BBC Director-General announced radical plans to restructure the World Service, the standard-bearer for quality broadcasting throughout the world. The future of the service, which followed the then Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, into setting up a working group to look into the implications of the proposals. Last October the group duly reported and agreed 20 measures with the BBC to safeguard the future of the World Service. Today, however, the criticism continues and the BBC annual report for 1996/97 gives a disturbing and very different view of events.

What were the compelling reasons for change? The rationale given was cost and increased efficiency to meet the digital age. But an independent report by FIMS in 1994 found World Service costs to be lower than those of the BBC's domestic services. The working group's concerns were met by a BBC promise to commission a comparative study of costs in November 1996. Has this been published or seen by the Foreign Secretary? The group has not met since October, and I could find nothing about it in the Annual Report.

World Service English news teams have now been moved away from close contact with their foreign language colleagues into the Domestic News and Current Affairs division. There they are responsible to a completely different line management and agenda under Tony Hall, head of news. Staff interchanges are not occurring as planned and there is a danger that the irreplaceable collective memory and experience of journalists will be lost.

An anecdote illustrates the problem. WS recently carried a report purporting to be from overseas. Government spokesmen. Experience led the producer to an old Africa hand, to treat it with suspicion and add a rider that it had not been confirmed. Radio 4 journalists, on the other hand, without that sixth sense, picked up the story and re-broadcast it without the rider and were subsequently proved wrong. It is on that subtle instinct and experience that

the WS reputation for quality has been built.

Just as controversial and damaging has been the split between commissioning and production. All the non-news English language production teams have been moved into BBC Broadcast under Ron Neil, who has no experience of international broadcasting. New commissioning editors have been appointed in each area, from drama to education and English language teaching, some with no previous WS experience.

So the ultimate arbiter will be cost, not expertise. Two illustrations of just how damaging the internal market is proving come from new arrangements under which the pronunciation and information units charge other departments for their services.

Producers now think twice about checking every fact and some have been known to visit public libraries rather than ring the BBC's own specialised staff. Others go out and buy CDs because it is cheaper than using the BBC record library. What a waste of time and expertise. Next on the list for revamping is the WS's unique and irreplaceable archive. Our problem is that the only person with the power to call the BBC chiefs to heel is the Foreign Secretary, and we have always been keen to keep the Government out of BBC affairs. But it may be a risk we have to take if the World Service is to be preserved as an irreplaceable national asset.

Is the Foreign Secretary happy that Bob Phillips's first act when he took responsibility for the World Service was to move it into the BBC's commercial arm, BBC Worldwide? What sort of message did this convey to the world? The head of the WS syndication department Anthony Pugh summed up the fears of many when he said: "Our philosophy will change — at World Service it was to reach the maximum audience possible throughout the world and now it will be to make the maximum money possible, and the two are quite different in broadcasting terms."

JOCELYN HAY
Chairman of Voice of the Listener and Viewer

A NUMBER of commentators have painted a picture of an organisation in some way irreparably damaged by the restructuring of the BBC. That is not a World Service I recognise. I see a broadcaster in good shape to embrace a challenging but exciting future.

The World Service has a global audience of 143 million. But it faces unprecedented competition — not just from other international radio stations, but from media deregulation, satellite television and new digital technology. Listeners want news and information available when it suits them. To meet this need, the World Service is investigating a second English channel for news and current affairs. Services in other key languages, such as Arabic, will be strengthened, too. The Arabic Service has responded to fierce competition by extending broadcasts by five hours a day.

On June 30, listeners on the east coast of the United States woke up to a new world news programme. More than 30 FM stations carried the new 50-minute World Update, aimed at early risers among the

TOMORROW'S WORLD

business, political, government and media communities.

Commissioned by the World Service and made by BBC News, it is the first major programme under the new structure. It has helped to win an audience of 3.5 million in the US, and was made possible only by savings delivered as a result of the BBC's restructuring.

A new short-wave transmitter station in Thailand has improved audibility for many listeners in Asia. The planned replacement of obsolete transmitters in the Gulf will help the World Service remain competitive in a crucial area.

FM is now accounting for a growing slice of radio audiences worldwide. There have been major breakthroughs in gaining FM frequencies in previously inaccessible areas such as the Gulf (in Qatar), the Ivory Coast and in former Zaire, where vital short-wave broadcasts in French and Swahili have been boosted by clear FM reception in Kinshasa and Kisangani. New FM agreements are also being

discussed for Kenya and Rwanda. In Hong Kong, coverage of the handover was reinforced by the World Service's Cantonese Internet site. The World Service will also be making on-line news, programme support and marketing information available on the Internet in Arabic, English, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish. Only joint development with the rest of the BBC will ensure that the World Service will be able to compete.

This applies equally to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB). The World Service is now taking part in a pilot scheme to offer digital services in major European cities. The investments required for these areas need not be beyond the resources of the World Service. The last Government's decision not to cut an additional £5 million from this year's Grant-in-Aid allowed some scope for development. Restructuring will add further savings to the 10 per cent the World Service promised to deliver over three years.

SAM YOUNGER

Managing director, World Service

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Tarzan's back in jungle



Heseltine: low profile

BOARD meetings at Haymarket Publishing look set to take a livelier turn. The magazine group, which owns publications as diverse as *What Car?* and *Horticultural Week*, has appointed Michael Heseltine as a non-executive director.

Having a former deputy Prime Minister on the team is always guaranteed to keep everyone on their toes. But in this case there is an added element of fun.

The founder and major shareholder in Haymarket Press is one Michael Ray Diddia Heseltine. During his years in high office, Heseltine was a "sleeping partner" in the company. Now that he has swung back into the publishing jungle, he is insisting that he will still have a back seat role. At his first board meeting he told his colleagues to carry on as normal and not to mind him. How reassuring. The Listener is sure that it was easy for them to pretend he wasn't there.

Royal diplomacy

AMID all the teeth-grashing over Radio 4's imminent shake-up, at least one traditional feature seems to have been saved from the chop. The station's controller,

source "but has decided that it's an area best left well alone."

Mail bonding

EMOTIONAL scenes at the *Daily Mail's* annual bash at Hampton Court, where staff traditionally dare each other to get drunk or even loosen their ties. Lord Rothermere, who prompted much gossip during the general election campaign by nailing his colours to new Labour's mast, kissed and made up with right-wing editor Paul Dacre in a moving speech. Dacre, a lifelong socialist, is the most brilliant editor in Fleet Street and a glittering asset to Associated Newspapers. Partygoers swear they detected the flicker of a smile on the normally dour Dacre's lips.

Cliffhanger

AFTER decades in the role of the Peter Pan of pop, one might think Sir Cliff Richard would be used to a bit of stick from the critics. Not a bit of it. Sir Cliff was most in tears this week when he attacked the scathing reviews of his show, *Heathcliff*.

"It's so frustrating to do something really good and not have people recognise it," he bleated. "Reviewers don't know anything. They can't do anything themselves, but they criticise us for trying." A spokesman for Sir Cliff explained: "He was irritated by some press reaction to *Heathcliff*. He felt he was not given a fair crack of the whip."

Young at heart

BBC staff, chinned by Director-General John Birt's announcement that further job cuts could be imminent, claim ageism is taking hold of the Corporation. They say any staffer over 50 is an endangered species. Insiders say paranoid staff are beginning to lie about their age. At least two middle-ranking executives who are beginning to go grey are known to have invested in a bottle of hair dye.



Boyle: anthem remains

Scotsman James "McBirt" Boyle, has been mulling over whether to end the practice of playing the *National Anthem* on Prince Philip's birthday. Fellow Scots have reportedly been urging him to have the bottle to do it. Most people, they say, don't mind the anthem being played for the Queen, Queen Mother and Prince Charles, but draw the line at the Duke. Boyle, however, has decided not to upset the applecart. "He has been looking closely at it," said a

On the second Friday of every month, national newspaper editors will be found closeted in their offices poring over the monthly report from the Audit Bureau of Circulations. They are searching for the best gloss to put on their sales performance — the most obvious test of their papers' and their own success or failure in Britain's ruthless newspaper market and the most crucial index used by advertisers deciding where to spend their money.

Success can be measured by whether sales are up or down on the previous month, on the same month of the previous year or for the long-term view by comparing year-on-year six monthly averages. Newspapers whose sales are static or falling will ignore the results or use the year-on-year six monthly averages which often offer a better story. Successful papers broadcast the news prominently: readers as well as advertisers are encouraged to know they are part of a success story.

Taking the wind out of their sales

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

Paul Dacre — but it deliberately used the year-on-year six-monthly averages to do down *The Express*, which is experiencing a modest success for the first time in decades. Editor Richard Adhls has held sales at more than 1.2 million throughout the first half of the year and his sales were up both month-on-month (by 890) and year-on-year (by 1,700). So he was entitled to his boast. Yet the

most contradictory plugs last weekend were in *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. *The Daily Telegraph* said it was going from "strength to strength", even though *The Times* said it was narrowing the sales gap with its fiercest rival.

Sales of *The Sunday Telegraph* were at an "all-time low", said *The Sunday Times* — but *The Sunday Telegraph*

HOW THE NEWSPAPERS COMPARE

Dailies	June 1997	June 1996	% change	Discounted sales	Sub Sales	Subscription sales
Sun Mirror	3,789,188	-180,978	-4.56	387,820	66	0
Sun Mirror	2,303,406	-105,049	-4.36	52,961	40,266	0
Daily Record	882,236	-38,589	-5.35	40	680	0
Express	1,281,330	1,739	0.14	256,633	57,930	0
Daily Mail	2,181,378	125,337	6.05	167,859	10,129	0
Daily Star	846,958	-20,515	-3.07	823	788	0
Times	735,714	10,875	1.50	9,826	28,822	16,503
Daily Telegraph	1,080,515	98,201	9.43	57,448	36,782	275,592
Guardian	409,584	18,522	4.74	1,803	4,591	201
Independent	255,888	-17,040	-6.24	8,474	22,973	201
Financial Times	326,576	25,787	8.57	4,278	7,656	292
Sundays						
News of the World	4,391,800	-254,007	-5.54	815	289	0
Sunday Mirror	2,224,136	-157,829	-7.79	50,571	43,114	0
Sunday Express	1,500,484	-185,818	-6.87	3,139	72,231	0
People	1,134,248	-68,108	-5.66	251,678	53,584	0
Express on Sunday	2,100,088	54,829	2.69	37,180	23,101	484
Sunday Times	1,299,369	1,891	0.13	122,943	26,510	272,810
Sunday Telegraph	853,565	170,137	24.86	3,314	15,946	0
Observer	449,049	298	0.07	26,978	18,539	192
Ind on Sunday	272,032	22,891	7.76			

papers for £1 a week — should be separately declared.

The result, published for the first time in ABC's June report last Friday, confirmed that the *Telegraph* group, set in panic by the success of *The Times's* Eurstar promotion last autumn, may have managed a mismanaged would be a better description — the most expensive one-year promotion in newspaper history.

Although hundreds of thousands of readers signed up for the £1 a week offer, outsiders believe that up to 80 per cent were already *Telegraph* readers who seized the opportunity to save £250 a week on a paper they were already buying.

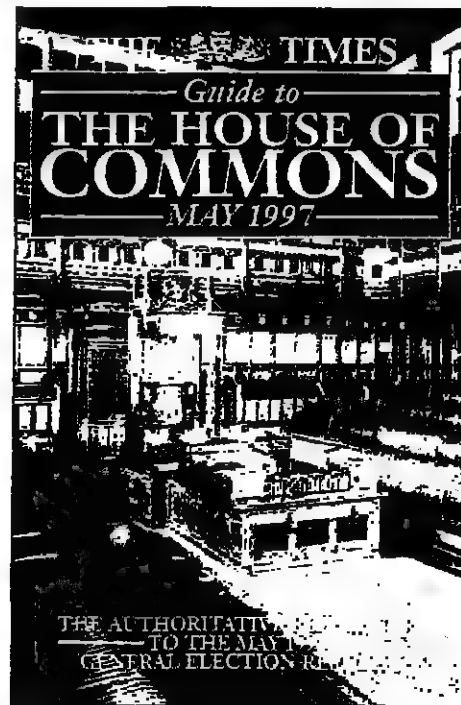
Telegraph profits — £60 million in 1993, £16 million in 1995 after the papers entered the price war with *The Times*, slumped to £1 million last year.

Total sales of *The Daily Telegraph* in June, inflated by the success of the subscription scheme, were 1,090,515 — but sales at the full cover price of 45p were only 710,295. Similarly total sales of *The Sunday Telegraph* were 853,565 — but at full price only 429,693 (just 6,000 ahead of *The Observer*).

The revelation that more than 300,000 of *The Daily Telegraph's* sales are bought by subscriptions and vouchers is a triumph for *The Times*, which now claims that its sale of 680,494 at the full newsstand price narrows the gap with the *Telegraph* to fewer than 30,000 and pushes it even closer to achieving its ambition of overtaking its main rival. At full cover price *The Sunday Times* can claim that it outsells all three broadsheet rivals.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

Drinks groups consider splitting LVMH in two



Arnault playing rough

BY DOMINIC WALSH
GUINNESS and Grand Metropolitan, the drinks groups planning a £23 billion merger, are considering a fresh proposal that would give them control over the Hennessy cognac business owned by LVMH, of France.

Senior executives from the three companies met in London yesterday to discuss a proposal that would split LVMH's Moët Hennessy drinks business, in which

Guinness holds a 34 per cent stake, into two. Under the terms put forward by LVMH, Guinness would buy the Hennessy Cognac brand, while LVMH would buy back full control of the Moët Champagne business.

In a statement issued after the stock market closed, Guinness and GrandMet confirmed weekend speculation that Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, had held a second meeting last week with his counterparts at Guinness

and GrandMet, Tony Greener and George Bull. The companies said: "While there were elements of the new proposal which would not be in the best interests of GrandMet and Guinness shareholders in the form proposed, GrandMet and Guinness will assess in full the commercial and financial logic of this new proposal when it is detailed in writing." They added: "It is too early to establish whether any agreement can be reached."

While the valuation put on Moët Hennessy by M Arnault's latest proposal is considered too high by the two British groups — to be renamed GMG Brands post-merger — it looks to have brought the two sides closer to a resolution of their dispute.

Ever since the GMG merger was announced in May, M Arnault has played an increasingly rougher game in a bid not to be left out, snapping up a 6.37 per cent stake in GrandMet to add to his existing 14 per cent holding in Guinness.

But despite the latest developments, LVMH's preferred route still appears to be a three-way tie-up pitting Moët Hennessy with Guinness's United Distillers and IDV, the spirits arm of GrandMet.

That option, which is to be formally submitted to GMG today, would involve the enlarged drinks business — worth an estimated £10 billion — being floated separately in London, leaving GMG with food businesses such as Pillsbury and Burger King

and Guinness's brewing arm. A source close to M Arnault said the formal proposal being submitted today was unlikely to include details of the alternative scheme splitting Moët Hennessy.

If that is the case, M Arnault is likely to receive short shrift from GMG. A source close to Guinness said yesterday: "Any kind of demerger of any sort would not find favour with Greener and Bull. They want to keep food and brewing with wines and spirits."

OFT urges radical pensions overhaul

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE Office of Fair Trading called for a radical overhaul of pension provision in Britain yesterday, condemning the present system as expensive and inadequate.

Publishing the findings of a ten-month inquiry, John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said many personal pension plans represented "poor value", with benefits "frequently eroded by the high cost of marketing and fund management".

Company pension schemes based on final salary discriminated against early leavers, Mr Bridgeman said, leaving some employees who moved jobs several times up to 30 per cent worse off. Schemes based on contributions lacked economy of scale and suffered high fund management charges.

The comprehensive OFT report, which extended to three volumes, outlined proposals for a new-style personal pension, the designated personal pension or DPP. Workers not in company schemes would be able to contribute as they do to personal pensions. More controversially, the OFT suggests members of company schemes should be able to compel their employer to contribute to a DPP instead.

Under the OFT proposals, DPPs would be run collectively, rather than individually, which it said would cut costs. Bodies such as building societies and trade unions as well as insurers should become active pension providers. Planholders would be charged a fixed fee related to the fund value rather than seeing large chunks of their investment used to pay upfront charges.

Pension contributions would be invested in inter-tracker funds instead of actively managed funds. The OFT argued that this would eliminate "specious and confusing claims" from salesmen about the superiority of actively managed pension funds. Mr Bridgeman said: "There is little or no evidence that fund managers can deliver above-average performance and every reason to believe that the average consumer would be better off with a passively managed fund."

equal annuity rates for men and women and removal of the penalties levied by some providers on people who take their pension funds elsewhere to get a better annuity rate.

But it held back from recommending that people be compelled to contribute to DPPs. It rejected arguments from trade unions and sections of the pensions industry that compulsory contributions were the only way to improve pension provision and were key to cutting marketing costs.

The pensions industry reacted angrily to OFT criticisms of existing personal pensions. Scottish Equitable attacked as "controversial and potentially very misleading" the report's conclusions about marketing, distribution and investment.

Ann Robinson, Director-General of the National Association of Pension Funds, said the report demonstrated a lack of understanding about the benefits of company schemes.

The Government is expected to announce an in-depth review of pensions this week, fleshing out its manifesto commitment to simple, low-cost "stakeholder" pensions to top up basic state benefits.

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The OFT also called for

Too little, too late, page 29

Sir Colin Marshall, and Bob Ayling, seated, at BA's annual meeting yesterday

BA board runs into turbulence from investors

BY JON ASHWORTH AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE board of British Airways ran into heavy turbulence at yesterday's annual meeting, as shareholders attacked everything from poor employee morale to the new BA livery.

BA gave a further warning that the strength of the pound was affecting yields, leaving the shares 10p lower at 67½p.

Bob Ayling, chief executive, said BA had "needlessly lost tens of millions of pounds" in last week's industrial unrest. The full financial impact is likely to be disclosed next month when BA unveils its first-quarter results.

Nearly 1,400 cabin crew are still off sick after last week's 72-hour strike, which officially ended on Saturday. Services remain disrupted, and BA said it would take until Monday to restore full operations.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, told the 980 shareholders at London's Barbican Centre that the disputes were close to being settled. He urged staff and shareholders to "hang on in there", saying: "I believe very sincerely that we are going to see efforts to

improve morale once we have the present issues and problems behind us."

A worldwide BA television network and an enhanced employee council are among measures being considered.

Mr Ayling, who says that cost savings of £1 billion a year are needed to keep BA competitive, faced repeated criticism from shareholders: many of them past or present BA employees.

One, Bernard Milton, accused Mr Ayling of alienating staff, saying: "There used to be a scheme called Putting People First (PPF). Now, PPF has come to mean putting profits first — and to hell with the staff."

Mr Ayling said that change was never popular. He added: "I am seen as the person responsible for changing things and I would not for one moment deny that this has caused an upset."

He said that he hoped to push through his programme as quickly as possible, before seeking to rebuild relations.

Diary, page 29

Golden share in BT abandoned

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE Government yesterday withdrew its golden share in BT in response to a request from the company made just after the May 1 general election.

BT's golden share was created during the 1984 privatisation, to protect the company from takeover. Yesterday, however, the Department of Trade and Industry explained that the British telecoms market had become increasingly competitive and that the international market had changed so much that the golden share was no longer necessary.

A 15 per cent limit on outside shareholdings remains in BT company rules but it is now possible to have an overseas

Tim Sainsbury sells shares for £4.53m

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIR TIM SAINSBURY, a non-executive director of J Sainsbury and former Tory MP for Hove, has added to his personal fortune by selling £4.53 million worth of shares in the supermarket group.

He sold 1.05 million shares at 43½p each on Friday, the company disclosed yesterday. The sale was well-timed, with the shares having enjoyed a strong rise since the end of June, reaching a 12-month high after a prolonged spell of underperformance because of the company's lacklustre showing against Tesco. The shares, which have traded as low as 30½p this year, closed at 43½p yesterday. The company said Sir Tim, who as an MP was the richest man in the House of Commons and who will still be left with nearly 4 per cent of the company, had not given a reason for the sale and was not obliged to as the shares came out of a family trust. He was unavailable for comment.

Sir Tim, a former Trade Minister, stood down at the general election. He is a cousin of David Sainsbury, the executive chairman.

Mr Lockhead, chief executive of Firstbus, Britain's largest bus group, has sold a third of his family stake in the group for £2.03 million. He and his wife retain 1 per cent.

Railtrack seeks more power for Horton

BY JASON NISSE

RAILTRACK, owner of Britain's privatised rail infrastructure, is planning to change its articles of association to give chairman Sir Robert Horton greater powers over board decisions.

The group will ask its shareholders next week to approve an amendment to the articles that would allow Sir Robert to hold board meetings via "a series of telephone calls from the chairman of the meeting".

Pirc, the pensions advisory body, has noted that the articles say a Railtrack board meeting will have a quorum if only two of its 12 board members are present. In addition, Sir Robert, as chairman, has a casting vote on board decisions.

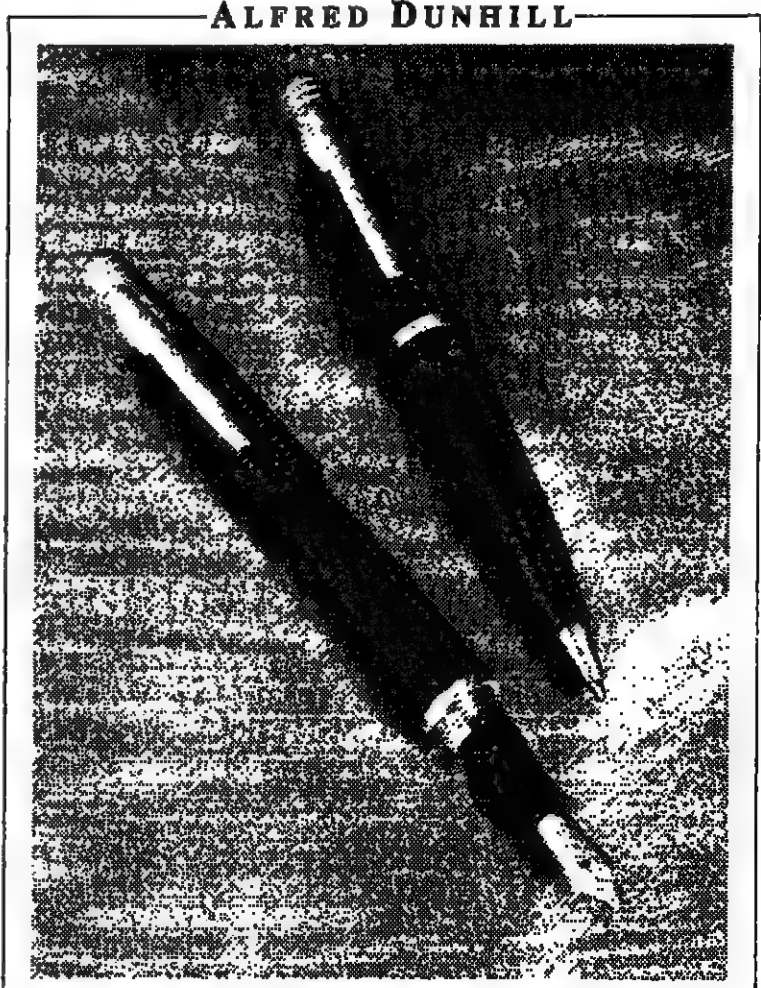
Anne Simpson, managing director of Pirc, said: "This means that Sir Robert can phone someone up, say this is a board meeting and we've decided to do so and so." The consultants, which boasts clients managing £130 billion of votes, are recommending voting against the

motion. Railtrack, which has been in conflict with the rail regulator and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the change merely replaces a previous rule that allows board decisions to be made by posting a resolution to the board members and then posting back their votes.

It said this was used only in extreme cases but admitted it had been used twice in the group's 14 months as a public company. "This is an innovation which gives the company extra flexibility and allows it to make

decisions quickly," said a spokeswoman.

The company added that Sir Robert was required to call all board members and for them to leave contact numbers if they are out of the country. He was also required to give "reasonable" notice of board meetings. The spokeswoman said: "We do not say what is reasonable, but it would be more than 20 minutes." But Pirc notes that Sir Robert has the power to waive the notice of the meeting "retrospectively or in any way he wants".



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Freight boost for P&O

The fire that disrupted services in the Channel Tunnel last November helped P&O to increase business on its cross-channel freight service by 75 per cent in the past three months, according to figures released yesterday.

Rock 'n' sold

VCL, the music and video publisher, has bought 1,000 master recordings of rock 'n' roll tracks from Johnny Vincent, an American professional collector, for \$2 million (£1.2 million). Mr Vincent, 66, will take all the money in cash and will remain with the company as a consultant.

Scotia post

Scotia Holdings, the drug development group whose shares have lost more than half their value this year, has appointed Robert Dow as group medical and development director. Dr Dow joins from Roche in Basel, where he is worldwide director of drug development.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.38	2.39
Austria S	22.18	20.85
Belgium F	65.32	60.38
Canada C	2.418	2.320
Cyprus Cyp	0.827	0.808
Denmark K	12.05	11.17
Finland M	9.46	8.70
France F	10.63	9.85
Germany D	3.18	2.93
Greece D	498	459
Hong Kong \$	13.76	12.56
Ireland P	1.27	1.07
Italy L	1.17	1.08
Israel S	6.29	5.84
Japan Y	3100	2893
Malaysia M	205.1	190.90
Norway K	0.689	0.630
Netherlands Gld	3.579	3.284
New Zealand \$	3.59	3.44
Norway K	12.22	12.28
Portugal Esc	316.53	294.80
Spain P	8.34	7.99
Sweden K	284.79	248.00
Switzerland F	15.94	12.84
Turkey L	2.62	2.41
Turkey Lira	38708	34730
USA \$	1.700	1.657

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BT attempt to cut MCI price will put merger in jeopardy

By ERIC REGULY

ANY attempt by British Telecom to renegotiate the MCI purchase price risks legal retaliation in the American courts that could potentially kill the merger, analysts said yesterday.

MCI, the second-largest long-distance phone company in the US, wants the merger to go ahead on its original terms in spite of the surprise announcement last week that its local business will incur losses of \$800 (£475 million) this year, more than double the previous estimate. BT agreed last November to pay about

£13 billion for MCI, using a mixture of cash and shares.

Bert Roberts, MCI's chairman and a non-executive director of BT, is expected to give shareholders a fuller account of the losses at BT's annual meeting in Edinburgh today.

Mr Roberts is under pressure from Sir Peter Brinfield, the BT chief executive who is to be chief executive of the merged group, called Concert, to seek the resignations of Douglas Maine, MCI's chief financial officer, and Tim Price, president, over the profits warning.

MCI could argue that a price reduction is not warranted because the losses are discretionary and, as such, do not constitute a "material adverse change" in the financial status of the company. Andrew Harrington, a Salomon Brothers analyst, said: "MCI can curtail the losses by simply slowing down the investment in its local business."

If BT insists on dropping the price substantially, MCI could take the matter to court, a costly move that could delay the merger by a year or more and potentially destroy any goodwill between the companies. One analyst said: "If MCI responds with litigation, it would destroy all morale and synergy. BT and MCI are sup-

posed to get along with each other and if they don't, there is no sense in doing the deal."

MCI has no fear of litigation. Founded in the 1960s, the company has made continuous use of the courts to hammer its way into new markets. Gerald Taylor, MCI's chief executive, described MCI in its early years as a "law office with an antenna on the roof".

The price of MCI shares does not suggest that any attempt by BT to reduce the purchase price substantially will fail. BT agreed to pay \$6 a share plus 5.4 BT shares (excluding dividends) for each MCI share, giving MCI an

implied value of about \$43 at BT's current share price. MCI shares closed yesterday at \$37.16.

BT could attempt to drop the price by reducing the number of BT shares payable to MCI shareholders. Some analysts think MCI is worth about \$25 a share.

MCI's losses in the local business stem from blocking tactics employed by the regional monopolies, known as Baby Bells, to prevent long-distance operators such as AT&T, Sprint and MCI from competing in their markets. BT shares closed 4p down at 452.2p.

Boeing and EU fail to break stalemate

By GEORGE SIVELL

TALKS between Boeing and the European Commission on the aircraft manufacturer's plans to merge with McDonnell Douglas ended last night without further concessions from Boeing.

Failure by the European Union to approve the merger raises the possibility of another damaging transatlantic trade dispute. EU competition experts will meet again this morning to discuss the merger. On July 4, the 15 competition representatives from all the European states agreed that the deal could not be allowed as it stood.

Boeing's latest offers to win

European Union approval for the \$14 billion (£8.36 billion) merger were not enough to ease Commission concerns about the deal's effect on competition.

The Commission plans to take a final decision at its weekly meeting on July 23.

Sources said that in some areas the offers made by Boeing were "not sufficient" and in others they were "totally insufficient".

The European Commission cleared payment of \$1.6 billion in state-funded aid to Alitalia, the Italian flag carrier, imposing various conditions in return for approval.

Shield to name marketing partner before year end

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS, the Dundee company whose future depends on its promising test for heart disease, expects to name a marketing partner before the end of the year (Paul Durman writes).

Shield believes that its test for Activated Factor 12 (AF12), a blood clotting agent, could replace cholesterol testing for predicting the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Although the company has produced much persuasive

evidence to support its claims, the product is too big for Shield to market itself and so it is seeking to license the test to a leading medical devices company.

In the year to March 31 Shield lost £1.3 million before tax, against a £276,000 profit last year, after a large rise in operating expenses.

As the company warned in January, it was hit by a fall in sales of its tests for syphilis and chlamydia.



GEM OF A YEAR: Malcolm Diamond, chief executive of CrestCo, after five acquisitions in the preceding 13 months.

Warning on 'easy money' schemes

By JON ASHWORTH

NIGEL GRIFFITHS, the Consumer Affairs Minister, yesterday urged investors to steer clear of "easy money" schemes amid a sharp rise in the level of company investigations.

Welcoming the latest figures from the Department of Trade and Industry, he urged investors to be on their guard.

It also emerged that the number of insider-dealing investigations dealt with by DTI investigators rose from 13 to 21 last year. This was because of a higher volume of referrals from the London Stock Exchange.

Ostrich, champagne and whisky businesses were among those that came to the attention of the DTI last year.

Mr Griffiths said: "The public should let us know about possible scams so that we can tackle them before more damage is done."

The DTI completed 221 investigations in the year to March 31, resulting in 38 winding-up orders. Convictions were obtained against nine defendants and disqualification proceedings are pending in 21 cases. In all, 317 prosecutions, involving 353 defendants, were completed. Convictions were obtained in 95 per cent of these cases. Three hundred and twenty people were convicted, with 79 receiving custodial sentences.

CrestCo plans expansion of settlement operations

CRESTCO, the company responsible for Crest, the computerised share settlement system, wants to expand operations into the settlement of gilts, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Iain Saville, chief executive of CrestCo, speaking on the first anniversary of the launch of Crest, said the main competitive threat comes from France, Germany and the US.

where equity and bond settlement is combined.

In its first year, Crest settled 15 million transactions, 85 per cent on the due date, a better performance than Talisman, its paper-based predecessor run by the Stock Exchange. The backlog of trades had been halved to 61,000 since the blackspot in April, when volumes brought on by the end of the tax-year, nearly brought the system to a standstill.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

American retail sales stage strong recovery

RETAIL sales in America recovered more strongly than expected in June after three consecutive monthly declines, the Commerce Department reported yesterday, suggesting a potential revival in consumer activity. Total retail sales potential revival in consumer activity. Total retail sales increased by 0.5 per cent last month, to a seasonally adjusted \$210.3 billion, after a revised 0.3 per cent drop in May. A surprising rise in sales by motor dealers boosted June sales. Excluding new cars, June retail sales were up 0.3 per cent after being flat in May.

Analysts are watching closely for evidence that growth may re-accelerate in the second half, potentially leading the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates to restrain expansion.

Earnings up at US banks

CHASE MANHATTAN and Citicorp, America's two largest banks, reported a rise in second-quarter earnings despite weakness in credit card and consumer banking operations. Chase, which took over the top spot from Citicorp when it acquired Chemical Bank last year, said net income rose to \$925 million (£57.8 million) from \$856 million a year earlier. Citicorp, also based in New York, said earnings rose to \$1 billion in the quarter from \$952 million a year earlier.

Construction exports slip

UK CONSTRUCTION companies secured overseas contracts worth £4.8 billion in 1996, compared to £5.5 billion in 1995, according to provisional figures published by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. About 40 per cent of these were in North America, with a further 20 per cent in the Far East. The value of work completed in 1996 was about £4.7 billion, compared with nearly £4 billion in 1995.

Centrica to supply Dutch

CENTRICA, the supply arm of the former British Gas, has agreed to supply one billion cubic metres of natural gas a year through the UK-Continental Interconnector pipeline to the Elsta power plant in The Netherlands. Deliveries should start in October 1998 when the interconnector, linking Bacton, Norfolk, with Zeebrugge in Belgium, is due to open. It is the first agreement by Centrica to supply a major continental end-user directly and the first export sale of UK gas to a power project.

WH Smith airport deal

WH SMITH, the struggling retail group, has taken the concession to operate five news, book and gift stores in the new Hong Kong airport, due to open in a year's time. Smiths intends to open four branches of Waterstone's and one WH Smith. The concessions will run for five years. Smiths, which is searching for a new chief executive following the resignation of Bill Cockburn, is keen to develop its travel retail business in the US and Far East.

AIM Group improves

AIM GROUP, the railway and aircraft interiors company, increased pre-tax profits to £5.7 million (£3.9 million) in the year to April 30 on turnover of £73.98 million (£67.3 million). Earnings per share were 30.7p (20.3p). The final dividend of 6p (4p) will be paid on October 3, lifting the total to 9p (5.5p). Jeff Smith, chairman, said: "The improving margin trend should ensure that further progress is made... much of the profit falling into the second half of the financial year."

Texas powers ahead

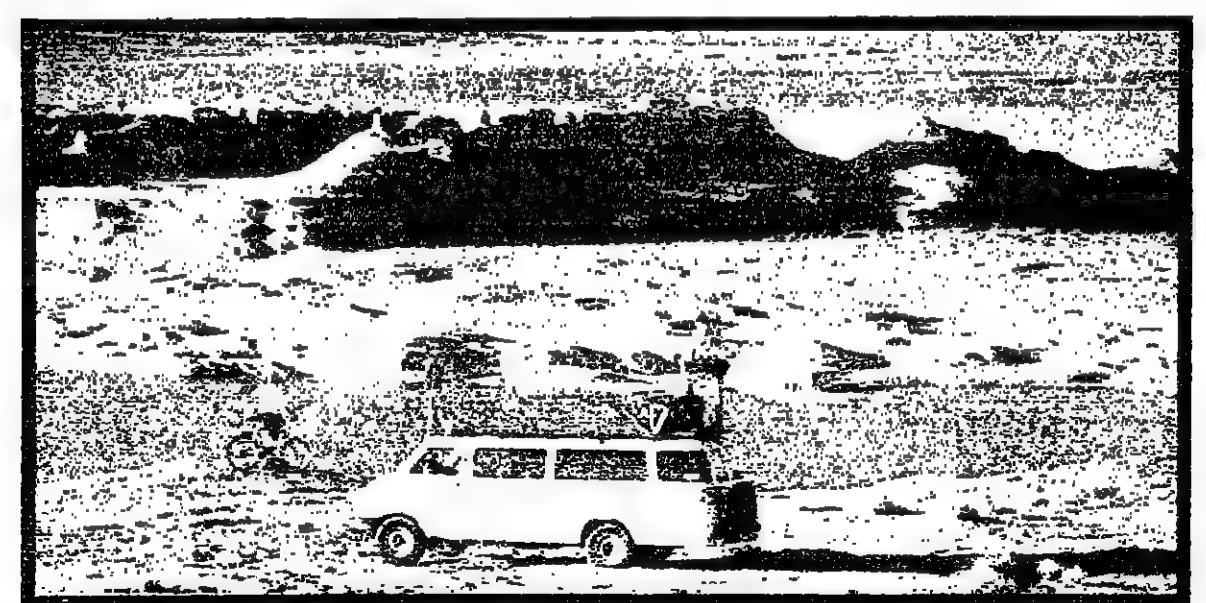
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS ran up powerful second-quarter earnings, boosted by strong revenues for its newest computer chips and higher operating margins. In the three months to end-June net income rose to \$249 million (£145 million), or \$1.28 a share, from \$176 million (99 cents a share) in the same period last year. Revenues were up from \$2.4 billion to \$2.56 billion. Semi-conductor revenues rose 17 per cent from the same quarter last year, and 10 per cent on the first quarter of 1997.

Cowie chooses successor

COWIE, the transport group, has named Michael Gwilt as an eventual successor to Gordon Hodgson, its chief executive. Mr Gwilt, who has spent his career in sales and marketing, joined the main board in March and will become group managing director in January. The company said that he will "assume progressively the responsibilities of chief executive". The shares were unchanged at 351p yesterday.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

50% off US trekking tours



Plus 20 pairs of return tickets to the US to be won

This week, readers of *The Times* can enjoy savings of 50% on a three-week adventure tour of north America with Trek America, the specialists in off-the-beaten-track adventures. Plus everyone who books a tour will be entered into a prize draw, courtesy of US travel specialists Flightbookers, with the chance to win one of 20 pairs of tickets flying with American Airlines who have up to 20 flights daily to any one of more than 200 US cities. Bookings must be made by

Aug 31, 1997 when the draw will take place. The 50% offer applies to the *Best of the West* tour which includes horseback rides with Navajo Indians, biking, hiking or flying in the Grand Canyon and visits to Disneyland and Hollywood.

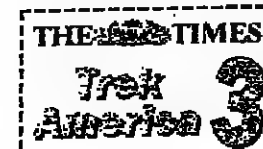
When travelling to the USA, Flightbookers can pre-book all your travel arrangements, including flights, car hire, accommodation and insurance. For further information on US holidays with Flightbookers call 0171-757 2000.



HOW TO APPLY

Call Flightbookers on 0171-757 2000 to request your Trek America and Footloose brochures and collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* this week. Attach the tokens to the completed voucher which will appear again tomorrow. Send the voucher and tokens to Flightbookers with the official brochure booking form to validate your discount. The 50% discount applies to the *Best of the West* treks originating at San

Francisco and starting on September 17 and 24, October 1, 15 and 29, 1997. The normal cost is £715 but *Times* readers pay just £357.50. For departures on July 30, August 13 and 20, and September 3 and 10, 1997, a 20% discount is available off the normal prices of £715 to £756. Flights between the UK and US are not included in these prices. You can also get 20% off any other tour featured in the Trek America or Footloose brochures with treks lasting from seven days to nine weeks. Flightbookers' insurance is compulsory with the above offers.



American Airlines

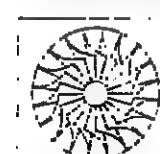
TREK AMERICA

CHANGING TIMES

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Canatxx Energy Ventures Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

CANATXX ENERGY VENTURES LIMITED
J.W. GRIMES POWER PLANT
DATED 2ND JULY 1997 NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR
CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A C.C.G.T.
(COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE) POWER STATION ON
LAND FORMERLY USED AS AN OIL STORAGE TANK FARM AT
RHOSGOCH ON THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY

Notice is hereby given that Canatxx Energy Ventures Limited has applied under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for consent of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to construct and operate a C.C.G.T. Power Station on the site of a former Oil Storage Tank Farm, at Rhosgoch on the Isle of Anglesey together with a direction under 40(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

The C.C.G.T. Power Station will have a Generating capacity of up to 280M W

A copy of the application, environmental statement and location plan, defining the land to which the application relates, are available for inspection during normal working hours, at the Planning Department, Anglesey County Council Offices, Llangefni, Anglesey LL77 7TW and Unifol Library, Llan Pysa, Unifol, Anglesey

Additional copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained, while stocks last, at a cost of £50.00 per copy including postage from:

Canatxx Energy Ventures Limited, Hillhouse International
Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 4QD

Those wishing to make objections to the application are requested to write to the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, Electricity Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 9ET

Please state the name of the proposed Power Plant and grounds for the objection, not later than 15th August 1997. It is requested that a copy of such objection is sent to Mr Dennis J. Voller, Canatxx Energy Ventures Limited, ICI Hillhouse International, PO Box 4 Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 4QD.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 000126 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF SAAR
LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
LIQUIDATION OF SAAR
LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented on 22nd June 1997 to the Court for an order appointing a Liquidator to the above-named company.

A copy of the said Petition and of the order of the Court appointing the Liquidator to the above-named company is filed in the Court and is available for inspection by any person at the Court on any business day between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Any creditor or shareholder of the said company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the liquidation of the said company, or to object to the appointment of the Liquidator, should apply to the Court on or before 16th July 1997.

Dated this 16th day of July 1997
JOHN W. GRIMES
Solicitor for the Liquidator
London WC2E 9TT
0171 782 7344
Fax: 0171 782 7344

Any creditor or shareholder of the said company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the liquidation of the said company, or to object to the appointment of the Liquidator, should apply to the Court on or before 16th July 1997.

Dated this 16th day of July 1997
JOHN W. GRIMES
Solicitor for the Liquidator
London WC2E 9TT
0171 782 7344
Fax: 0171 782 7344

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هذه امانة الأصل

A little Anite music



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Why is it that once a company hits problems it changes its name? Control Securities became Ascot Holdings, Saatchi & Saatchi became Cordiant, and Cray Electronics became Anite. But changing the company's name does not seem to dim Anite's ability to lose shareholders' money while lining its directors' pockets. However, it may explain why the Stock Exchange has not been able to make any progress with its investigation into the group's misleading interim results published in January 1995. Maybe the investigators are taking some time to digest the change of name.

Of the trio who "saved" Cray in the early 1990s, Sir Peter Michael walked away with £12.6 million worth of shares, Roger Holland bought a Cray subsidiary with assets of £15.5 million for just £1, and Jon Richards is receiving a payoff that could total £640,000.

Mr Richards, who *The Times* revealed had magically presented a £1 million loss as a £7.8 million profit, has already picked up £267,000 in cash and a £56,000 pension payment. If he does not receive a remuneration post by next March he picks up another £134,000 and will get an additional £134,000 if he is still out of work come September 1998. This is hardly an incentive

to rush down to the job centre in his Aston Martin DB7. The money already paid out to Mr Richards probably cannot be recovered. But Anite shareholder should force the company to stop these further payments immediately. Never mind his economy with the truth. This is the man who presided over a meltdown in Anite profits and shares, with the group making a £19.2 million loss in 1995-96 and a £50.4 million loss last year. Mr Richards was handsomely rewarded when the group was apparently doing well. Should he be rewarded for it doing badly?

Evidence is now emerging that Anite was never doing that well in the good times anyway. Yesterday, it wrote off £34 million to cover its property problems, which apparently dated back to the late 1980s and were bubbling under the surface during the Michael/Holland/Richards era. It also lost £26 million on businesses recently sold and revealed it was changing an interesting accounting policy. This allowed it to take nearly a quarter of the profit from computer service contracts, which

often last for at least a year, in the first month of the deal. Even this cannot explain how a £1 million loss was presented as a £7.8 million profit.

The Cray/Anite story stinks. The Stock Exchange must get to grips with the accusations that the group misled shareholders, or pass the papers to someone who might. The DTI perhaps?

Tarnished EMU remains on track

Wishful thinking has dominated the EMU debate in this country over the past few months. Commentators and politicians are now broadly united in their scepticism towards the single currency — with even the previously pro-EMU CBI expected to reveal next week a cooling of

its European ardour. But there is a danger that British observers have confused a desire to see the project fail with the reality that EMU has lost some of its shine but remains tentatively on track.

Traders in the European markets, though, are convinced the project will not collapse unless Kohl says so. The J.P. Morgan EMU calculator, which measures market expectations, shows the market all but convinced that a broad euro will go ahead on time. But while the focus remains on the political difficulties surrounding the start of the project there has been little examination of the tensions that will result from the creation of a broad and soft euro. In particular, the market's current vision of the single currency seems certain to set the Bundesbank-style European Central Bank on a collision course with the "Club

Med" members of EMU. On paper the ECB looks watertight. A specific commitment to price stability has been enshrined in its constitution, while it has also been excluded from granting credit to governments or any European institutions to plug budget holes.

But the Bundesbank derives its real strength from its reputation rather than its constitution. It has taken a long time to build a sufficient power base with which to challenge the might of the German Government. The ECB, however, could find itself in conflict with European Governments before it has time to establish its own credentials. As a timely paper from UBS points out, the ECB faces three immediate fault lines when trying to marry its task of fixing price stability with exchange rate, unemployment and fiscal policy

across the euro area. It would be premature to assume a soft euro is doomed, but the market's reaction to a clash between the ECB and the Club Med governments will quickly make recent squabbles over deficit criteria seem like Euro-harmony.

EU clogs up the waterworks

Water companies should be able to wipe the political slate clean after paying the lion's share of the windfall tax and satisfying John Prescott over leak control at his water summit. But tensions are already building up over the next water price review.

The Ofwat National Consumer Council has issued a warning about extra EU directives being promoted in Brussels. These could raise average household bills by a further £21 a year, partly because expensive work already done would no longer pass muster.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, is determined to avoid what followed his last price

review. His gradualist approach to bringing down returns on assets allowed the City to demand large cash handouts in year one, albeit most were sugared by relief for customers. This time, he wants to ape power regulators and demand a significant up-front price cut.

The trouble is that, in water, this would be followed by real annual price increases, probably even without extra EU imposts. Customers trying to juggle their bills are unlikely to appreciate such efforts. They deserve a freeze on charges. The trend away from high and volatile inflation allows this. Prices are already high enough to accommodate a good rate of investment on improvements. Spending should be kept within these means, if necessary by shuffling priorities.

OFT repeated

WHAT happens to the usually forthright John Bridgeman when confronted with the City? The Director-General of Fair Trading keeps giving underwriters another chance to sort out the cost of raising money. Now, when faced with high charges by pension providers, he reckons competition will sort this out. But there are nearly 200 life companies and if the market was so efficient everyone would have a pension with Equitable Life.

Talks are off at loss-hit Kenwood

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

KENWOOD, the struggling household appliances group, revealed it plunged into loss last year and said talks with its smaller rival Pico, which has been stalking it for months, have ended.

Colin Gordon, Kenwood's new chief executive, said the board had looked at proposals made by Pico and decided they would not lead to a satisfactory offer. The proposals were not put to shareholders. Pico declined to comment.

Kenwood incurred a loss of £11.4 million in the year to April 4 after taking an exceptional reorganisation charge of £15.5 million. A year earlier, it made a profit of £15.6 million. The company will not be paying a final dividend, so the total for the year will be 3.25p (10p). Mr Gordon said that profits in the first half of the current year are likely to be lower than last year because of difficult trading conditions and the strong pound. If current exchange rates prevail for the whole year profits will be knocked by £4 million, he said.

Mr Gordon was appointed after Tim Beech, his predecessor, left after a shareholder revolt earlier this year. UK Active Value built up a 9 per cent stake and then forced a vote, which it lost, on whether the company should be put up for sale.

The company cut 416 jobs last year. It is reviewing all its operations and will decide at the end of this year whether more jobs will go. Mizumi, its Italian air conditioning business, has performed poorly again and the company is keen to sell it.

Operating margins across the group declined from 9.3 per cent to 4.3 per cent last year. Mr Gordon said that the business had been wrong to focus on increasing turnover rather than maintain or improve margins and his main objective is to "substantially improve" margins in the next few months.

Tempus, page 28

SBC agrees link-up with Japanese bank

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SWISS Bank Corporation has agreed a wide-ranging strategic link with Japan's most prominent wholesale bank to prepare both for Tokyo's planned "Big Bang" financial deregulation, scheduled for the turn of the century.

SBC and the Long Term Credit Bank of Japan have agreed three 50:50 joint ventures to be cemented by group financial links. SBC will also inject cash into LTCB, which is suffering one of the worst bad-debt problems of any leading Japanese bank, to improve its capital ratios.

The most significant new venture will bring together the Tokyo securities and corporate finance business of SBC Warburg and LTCB's smaller, mainly debt-related business. The new investment bank would aim to expand from an existing base of 700 employ-

ees, most of whom would come from SBC Warburg.

A letter of intent signed yesterday includes plans to forge a new Tokyo-based fund management business based on SBC Brinson, the Swiss bank's international investment business, and LTCB's domestic pension fund management operations. Brinson manages about £75 billion, much of it in equities, while LTCB controls about £5.5 billion, mostly in debt.

Katsunobu Onogi, LTCB's president, called the alliance "the perfect response to the opportunities presented by the Big Bang". The two banks will also offer private banking for wealthy people. The Swiss bank operates private banking extensively round the world but it is claimed to be a new phenomenon in Japan.

Each parent group will take



de Gier: "client-focused"

a 3 per cent stake in the other. In LTCB's case, this will be in new shares. SBC, which has a strong capital base, will subscribe about £365 million in new LTCB preference shares as part of a £1.1 billion capital raising aimed to restore the

Japanese group's balance sheet. Although the capital injection will give LTCB high capital ratios, it is likely to be used to allow it to write off bad and doubtful debts.

Warburg and Morgan Stanley's mutual desire to strengthen their Far East operations was one motive for their aborted merger. The subsequent takeover of Warburg by SBC did little to boost Far East operations. The LTCB tie-up, which raises money in wholesale markets for long-term industrial loans, will add a leading Japanese financial name and a fine list of potential blue-chip Japanese customers.

Hans de Gier, executive chairman of SBC Warburg, said: "We will be home to the most creative, dynamic and client-focused team in Japan and beyond". SBC Warburg gains business immediately by acting for LTCB in its capital-raising.

Northern Electric hit by bid costs

NORTHERN ELECTRIC spent £10 million in its failed attempt to thwart CalEnergy, the US company that gained control of the regional electricity company last year after a bitter bid battle (Christine Buckley writes).

The bid costs and the impact of the distribution price review helped to cut pre-tax profits at the company 31 per cent to £103 million in the year to the end of March.

Northern was not obliged to publish its figures but did so for its preference shareholders. The amount of electricity it distributed rose 1.4 per cent in the year, while turnover increased 5.7 per cent.

Northern still has to decide how it will pay its £118 million windfall tax. The company was highly geared at 125 per cent before CalEnergy bought the business. CalEnergy itself came under heavy scrutiny because of its own gearing arrangements in the US after it emerged that its debt was junk rated.

Property cover sends Anite £50.4m into red

By PAUL DURMAN

ANITE, the computer networks and software group that parted company with its chief executive in March, has slipped to a £50.4 million loss after making a £32.2 million provision to cover the cost of dealing with 34 unwanted properties.

The full-year results also show Anite has set aside £640,000 to pay compensation to Jon Richards, its former chief executive. Mr Richards has already received £323,000 and will receive the balance, in two tranches, if he does not secure a job paying £268,000 a year by September next year.

Mr Richards left Anite, formerly known as Cray Electronics, in the wake of reports in *The Times* that showed senior management was aware of serious trading difficulties at least five months before it issued a shock profits

warning in April 1995. The Stock Exchange has reopened its inquiry into this matter, though Alec Daly, Anite's chairman, yesterday declined to comment on the progress of the investigation.

Mr Daly said: "There are no major issues within this company that we have not exposed and we are now looking forward. The group has been transformed. We do now have two divisions which are profitable, cash generative and growing."

Last year, increased profits of £6.9 million (£5.2 million) from the continuing software and network integration businesses were wiped out by the £26.3 million loss Anite suffered on its Case Technology manufacturing businesses, which were sold in February.

Commentary, this page

Inn Business calls time on buying and goes for growth

By DOMINIC WALSH



Alan Jackson reported pre-tax profit of £2.92 million

INN Business Group, the pub operator nursed back to health by Alan Jackson, the former Whitbread executive, has called time on acquisitions after a hectic two years of takeover activity.

Since reversing Inn Business into debt-ridden United Breweries in April 1995, Mr Jackson has spent £55 million on acquisitions, the biggest being the £30 million purchase in November of Sycamore Taverns.

But yesterday Mr Jackson said the focus was now firmly on organic growth. "Obviously if somebody came along with a super earnings-enhancing deal we'd look at it."

The company has about 500 tenanted pubs and 27 managed houses. It plans to expand the managed division to about 75 pubs. The recently acquired Hooten Horse food-led concept is to be developed from eight outlets to at least 30.

Mr Jackson outlined his strategy as he reported pre-tax profit up from £386,000 to £2.92 million in the half year to May 31. Turnover rose from £5.59 million to £15.46 million. Earnings per share jumped from 0.97p to 3.19p, and the dividend, due on October 15, is 13.6 per cent higher at 0.625p.

Rolls-Royce power station

A NEW power station that uses a modified aircraft engine as its generator is to be built in Birmingham at a cost of £35 million by Rolls-Royce. It is being built for Eastern Group, the electricity supplier, which will provide gas to fuel

the station, and is expected to go into operation next year. Rolls, which will own and manage the 100 megawatt station and supply power under an initial 15-year contract, is currently looking for a 50:50 joint venture partner.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Brokers help to fuel another record rise

CITY brokers have been busy sharpening their pencils ahead of the forthcoming bank interim dividend reporting season. Their collective findings fuelled further impressive gains that helped to drive the equity market to another closing high.

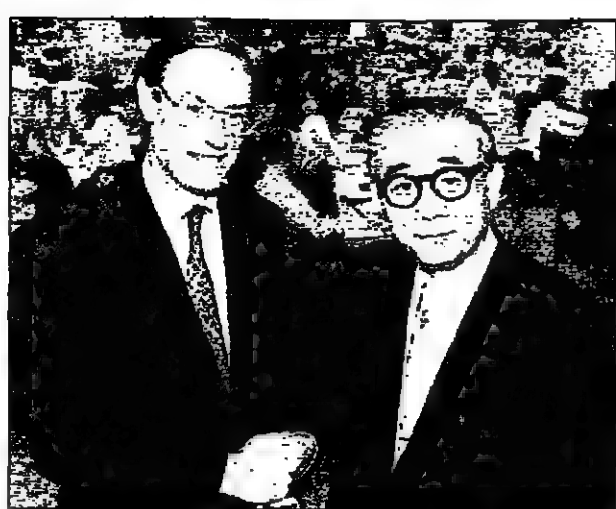
Hopes are high strong earnings and dividend growth will be a feature of this season's results and this was reflected in share prices. Barclays up on 18p to £12.52, HSBC 85p at a new peak of £20.80p, Lloyds TSB 22p at 697.5p, Royal Bank of Scotland 24p at 634p, and Standard Chartered 26p at £10.00.

But NatWest fell 5p to 853p after cautious comments from several brokers. In a major review of the banking sector, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has reiterated its "sell" recommendation on NatWest, while SBC Warburg has downgraded from a "buy" to a "hold". Warburg says fair value is 820p.

Top of Kleinwort's shopping list is HSBC, which it says is a "buy" up to the £24 level. It also rates Lloyds TSB a "buy" up to 830p and has upgraded Barclays and Standard from a "hold" to "add". Halifax, unchanged at 750p, is reduced from a "hold" to "reduce". Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, is also positive on HSBC, forecasting a price of £22 short-term.

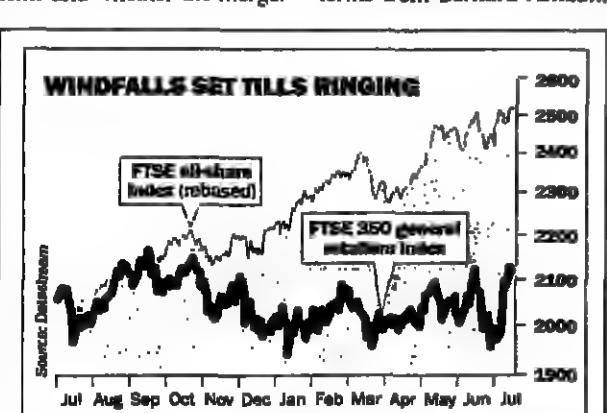
The latest news from the British Retail Consortium failed to reflect growing inflationary pressures and provided a firm start for trading generally. Another bout of selective support among blue chips sent prices racing sharply to briefly breach the 4,000 level. As a result, the FTSE 100 index closed 41.9 up at a new high of 4,999.3. The FTSE 350 closed just 19.0 better at 2,344.9. Total turnover reached 939 million shares.

The drug companies continued to stretch this week's gains with the help of results from overseas companies such as Roche and Johnson & Johnson. Zeneca ended 39p dearer at £21.98, while Glaxo Wellcome put on 8p at £13.85. ICI also edged 8p higher at 888p after this week's £2 billion sale of its bulk chemical business and there was demand elsewhere in the sector for BOC Group, up 20p to £10.625p. Ellis & Everard, 10p to 250p, and Croda International, 17p to



Phillip Stephens, of UBS, left, and Masayoshi Hanabusa, of Hitachi Credit (UK), which made its debut yesterday

27p. Laporte, 25p to 631p, and BTP, 14p to 276p. BT was again on the slide, retreating 4p to 452.4p ahead of today's annual meeting. The directors will probably be pressed on last week's surprise profits warning from MCI, its proposed merger partner in the US. Shareholders will no doubt want to know why BT had no idea about the problems and whether the merger



receiving an additional boost from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which continues to rate the shares a "buy". Others to go better included Argos, 15p to 622.5p; Kingfisher, 18p to 733.5p; Boots, 21p to 809p; UNO, 20p to 255p; and W H Smith, 13p to 364p.

Brokers say there has been pent-up demand for selective retailers because of the recovery in the housing market, which has now begun to filter through to durable goods.

"Good news flows have been underpinning sentiment," said one broker.

of LVMH, to merge their various drinks arms. He has opposed the £23 billion Guinness/Grand Merger.

One of the best performances among the top 100 companies was seen in Rolls-Royce, which ended 6p better at 222p as almost eight million shares changed hands.

Smith & Nephew moved up 7p to 171p as Salomon Brothers, the US securities house, moved from a "hold" to "buy" and put a 200p target price on the shares.

Increased losses left Shield Diagnostics 52p down on the day at 510p. In spite of the volatility in the share price this year, Walker Cripps, Weddie, Beck, the broker, is excited about prospects.

Biocompatibles eased 3p to £12.16p, but whispers around the Square Mile claim Johnson & Johnson is poised to make an offer. At these levels Biocompatibles is valued at almost £900 million.

Hitachi Credit (UK) made an encouraging start in first-time trading after a placing by UBS, the broker, at 135p. The shares started at 142p before closing at 144p, the best of the day.

Calson Energy, up 10p to 544p, is linking with Shell, down 4p to 424p to jointly bid for further new blocks in Bangladesh. Shell is also paying Calson £130 million (£7.5 million) for a half stake in the

company. **GILT-EDGED:** Prices drifted lower again for much of the day although support at the lower levels enabled London to outperform its main European rivals. Worries about a further tightening of German monetary policy and a possible rise in interest rates were offset by mild US retail sales and the British Retail Consortium survey.

The Bank of England has decided to offer £2 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2021 in next week's auction.

The September series of the Long Gilt finished 11p cheaper at £114.4 as a total of 78,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was three ticks lighter at £109.1, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished all-square at £102.16.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average slipped to negative ground in early trading. At midday the index was down 29.03 points at 7,993.95.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7993.95 (-29.03)
S&P Composite 916.69 (-1.99)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 2009.41 (-19.31)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 15487.28 (+116.30)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 949.16 (+0.98)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2671.40 (-35.40)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4121.13 (-3.08)

Singapore:
Straits 1937.99 (+17.51)

Brussels:
General 1404.14 (-7.38)

Paris:
CAC-40 2880.70 (+9.11)

Zurich:
SIX 1192.70 (-1.40)

London:
FT 30 3098.3 (+18.2)
FTSE 100 4999.3 (+41.9)
FTSE 250 4315.5 (+2.4)
FTSE 350 2344.9 (+19.0)

FTSE Eurozone 100 2685.0 (+2.83)
FTSE All-Share 2298.1 (+17.33)
FTSE New Financials 2203.0 (+11.72)
FTSE Fixed Interest 134.78 (+0.28)
FTSE Govt Secs 96.61 (+0.05)
Barracuda 537.5

SEAD Value 1.6743 (+0.04)
German Mark 3.0141 (+0.04)
Exchange Index 105.14 (+0.04)
Bank of England official rate 6.00%

LECU 1.5260
ESDR 1.2216
197.5 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1997-100
RPIX 156.7 Jan (2.7%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

AIT 150% ...
Ashtree 130% ...
Cammett Laird 112% ...
Delcan 357% ...
European Ming Fin 241% (+1.4p)
Galen Holdings 302 ...
Grosvenor Hldgs 3 ...
Grosvenor Hldgs Wts 1 ...
Hitachi Credit (UK) 144% ...
Primesight 130% ...
Rockrose Merit 109 ...
Rogabridge Group 208% ...
SBS Group 100% ...
SGB Group 156 ...
Woolwich 290 ...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dragon Oil n/p (2) ...
HIT Entertainment n/p (270) ...
Mackie Int n/p (30) ...
MWB Group n/p (175) ...

MAJOR CHANGES

RESSES:
SICO Int 333p (+31p)
Fired Earth 205p (+18p)
Hamleys 287p (+20p)
UNO 295p (+20p)
Croda 271p (+17p)
SGS 204p (+11p)
Cookson 204p (+11p)
H&C Furnishing 253p (+11p)
Innovative Tech 286p (+11p)
Ella & Everard 250p (+10p)
Land 331p (+13p)
GBA 344p (+13p)
Ladbrokes 257p (+8p)
Scot & New 752p (+24p)
SGU 345p (+10p)
Stagescoach 685p (+20p)
David Service 287p (+10p)

FALLS:
Real Time 244p (-17p)
Vanguard 414p (-28p)
Shield Diag 510p (-32p)
Park Group 380p (-17p)
Gardiner 387p (-16p)
AIM 555p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 31

BT stays on the party line

THE bosses of BT and MCI are singing the same song - the merger stands, the strategy is fine and the two boards are united. Sir Peter Bonfield might get through today's annual meeting of BT if he keeps chanting that mantra. Meanwhile, the foundations of his deal with MCI are shuddering. If anyone still thinks that the merger terms are credible they should look at the MCI and BT share prices.

BT originally offered \$6 plus 5.4 of its shares for each MCI share. Last night, the implied price of MCI on the merger terms was about \$43 compared with an actual price for MCI of \$36 per share. Assuming the market is not crazy, BT investors should be asking Sir Peter why he is prepared to pay almost 20 per cent more for MCI than the company is worth?

The answer is that Sir Peter feels he has little

choice but to back the MCI bosses. If you believe the publicity, BT and MCI have been thick as thieves since 1994 when the UK company acquired 20 per cent of the American long-distance operator. BT backed the MCI men, their strategy and the investment of billions into building a local US telephone network. In order to back out of this deal, Sir Peter would almost have to accuse MCI of concealing information about the local network debacle. In the meantime, investors who turn up in Edinburgh might ask Sir Peter whether BT really needs a local US network and, if not, why support the investment?

Arbitrageurs looking for a cheap way into BT will now be in a quandary. Buying MCI today, you can get BT shares at a 20 per cent discount, unless the deal is renegotiated. But it is still on, isn't it?

Kenwood

KENWOOD looks like it has been shredded in one of its own blenders. The company has endured three different chief executives and two chairmen, lived through a shareholder revolt led by UK Active Value and fought off the attentions of rival Pico.

Yesterday's news of dire results are cold comfort for shareholders who wanted rid of the last chief executive. Rather than offering hope for the future, the figures paint a bleak picture of Kenwood's decline. While sales crept higher last year, margins collapsed from 9.3 per cent to 4.3 per cent. In the UK, market share for Kenwood products has increased but at a huge cost.

The Italian business, particularly the Mizumi air conditioning company, had a disastrous year. Kenwood

British Airways

THE word now cropped up 15 times in Robert Ayling's description of British Airways' new mission yesterday. BA's chief executive told the annual meeting about a new identity and new corporate colours for a new millennium. Could this be new British Airways under new Labour?

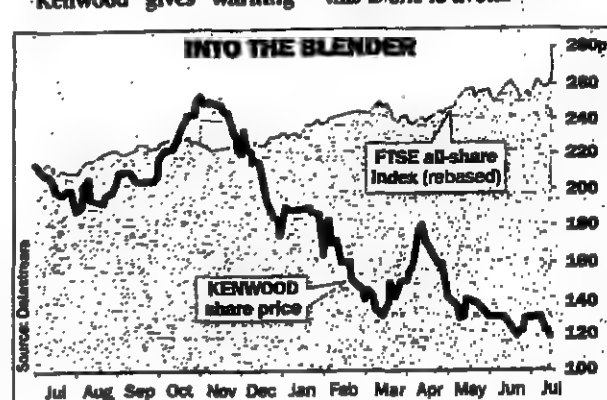
Unfortunately, Mr Ayling was unable to include new labour relations in his theme. The omission, not entirely his fault, is critical to BA's strategy of competing head to head in every section of the airline market, right down to the lowliest cost cutter in the industry. He plaintively notes that some of his competitors do not have unions, a not very hidden reference to Virgin and British Midland.

BA says its junior cabin crew a basic salary, excluding allowances, of about £11,000, 10 per cent more than crew working for competitors as well as cabin crew at GB Airways, a BA franchise.

Into the Blender

now wants to sell the business, but will still struggle to find a buyer. Plans to focus on the Kenwood brand and increase product outsourcing sound very much like the old management's dressed in new clothes; the reorganisation cost of £15.5 million will be hard to swallow.

Kenwood gives warning



Aston Villa

BIG loss, good news. Welcome to the wonderful world of football finance. Any normal company that forecast profits of £2.8 million at flotation but then made a loss of £3.9 million would face a

lynch mob. But Aston Villa's shares rose 30p. Aston Villa's loss was blamed on the expense of buying top flight players - namely Stan Collymore, the disaffected former Liverpool striker. The word on the Holte End terraces is that someone helping Dwight Yorke knock the goals in, added to the best defence in the Premiership, gives Villa a good chance of winning something this year.

Poor performance on the pitch has been a problem for Villa. The club's early exit from the FA and Coca-Cola cups accounted for the fall in operating profit from £6.2 million to £5.4 million.

Things look better this year, partly because of an increase in TV money, with the exciting prospect of pay-per-view TV. There may be worries about Doug Ellis's all-consuming control over the club, but if there is good value in the football sector, it is represented by Villa.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

CRUDE OILS (London 6.00pm)

ICE-100 (London 6.00pm)

ICE-100 (London 6.00pm)

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ICE-100 (London 6.00pm)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt

German Govt Bond (Bund)

Italian Govt Bond (BTP)

Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)

Three Mth Sterling

Three Mth Eurodollar

Three Mth Eurodollar

Three Mth Eurodollar

Three Mth Eurodollar

Three Mth Eurodollar

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Three Mth Eurodollar

DOLLAR RATES

Australia

Canada

France

Germany

Italy

Japan

Netherlands

Portugal

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

UK

USA

West Germany

Yen

Yen

Yen

Yen

Yen

WALL STREET

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

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NYSE

NYSE

NYSE

OTHER STERLING

Argentina

Australia

Canada

France

Germany

Italy

Japan

Netherlands

Portugal

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

UK

USA

West Germany

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THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING INQUIRY INTO PENSIONS

Simple, low-cost, flexible DPP plan creates sensation of too little, too late

Caroline Merrell
on an imperfect
response to the
so-called 'greatest
financial scandal
of this century'

The phrase too little, too late immediately comes to mind when reading the 511-page, three-volume report from the Office of Fair Trading.

Its analysis of the pensions market comes up with three conclusions that the Government and the life insurance industry have acknowledged for at least the past decade. However, the OFT spared the life insurance industry the brunt of the blame for the chaotic state of pensions, unlike Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

Instead, using curious algebraic formulae, the report concludes that the public finds pensions too complicated to understand. It reveals, not for the first time, that many pensions carry exorbitant charges, and it points out that the products themselves are too inflexible. Their structure means that those who change jobs frequently, or women who take a career break to have a family, are severely disadvantaged. The report said that a worker who moved several times can find his or her pension up to 30 per cent lower than someone who stayed in the same scheme.

The OFT also attacked the pensions fund-management industry for failing to produce investment returns that were better than an investment in a tracking fund. The lucrative returns for those with the fund management industry were graphically illustrated last year when Nicola Horlick, in charge of pensions at Morgan Grenfell, was suspended in a row about positioning. Mr Horlick's entire pay package was estimated at more than £1 million. Her lucrative pay and pension deal contrasts sharply with the 90 per cent of people who retire on less than the maximum pension of two-thirds of final salary allowed by the Inland Revenue.

The contrast is even more marked when the average wage of around £18,000 is taken into account. What is more alarming is that 60 per cent of men, traditionally still the breadwinner, make less than this average, and one in four make no extra pension provision whatsoever.

To widen the appeal of pensions to the mass market, the report suggests the encouragement of simple, flexible, low-cost pensions based on index-tracking techniques. However, it holds back from suggesting that contributing to a pension scheme should be mandatory.

Later this week, the Government will announce a review of pensions, which is expected to take on board some of



Nicola Horlick's pay and pension deal was more than £1 million



Helen Liddell placed the blame firmly on the pensions industry



John Bridgeman saw the cause of the chaos in more complicated terms

findings of the Office of Fair Trading. It faces a fundamental dilemma — can it entrust the pensions of the nation to the companies that, it feels, have presided 'over the greatest financial scandal of this century'?

Just under a decade ago, in reaction to demographic trends that continue to threaten to destabilise state pension provision, the then Conservative Government decided to introduce personal pensions.

An ageing population meant that those not covered by company schemes could no longer rely on the state to provide adequate cover at retirement. For example, over the next couple of decades the value of the basic pension will fall — as a percentage of average earnings — to half what it is today.

The life insurance companies saw the handing over of pensions provisions to the private sector as a golden

opportunity to relieve the public to the tune of £4 billion. Life insurance salesmen, earning hundreds of thousands of pounds in commission, encouraged miners, nurses and other public-sector workers to leave schemes with guaranteed benefits to take out plans where the charges in some cases meant that none of the policyholders' contributions were invested for up to four years.

In spite of the tremendous

criticism from consumer bodies and the Government, the industry has failed to take the problem seriously, blaming compensation delays on administrative problems. Around 500,000 of the seven million people with personal pensions are believed to be affected by this problem. Some believe that the figure could be even higher.

The 20 million or so employees who have company schemes have not been im-

mune to scandal either. Six years ago Robert Maxwell, the media tycoon, felt it within his powers to help himself to around £400 million of pension money to try to prop up his ailing empire. In the aftermath, the Government introduced tougher rules governing pension scheme assets, the costs of which are pushing some companies to scrap the guaranteed benefits offered by some pensions. Instead, the pensions of millions of em-

ployees will now be based on contributions — in a similar way to personal pensions.

The Government is not immune to criticism in its handling of pensions. In what was described as a multibillion-pound raid in the last Budget, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, scrapped tax relief on pension fund dividends, raising around £5 billion a year. The cost to those in company schemes is expected to be around £190 annually, while those with personal pensions could be looking at a cut of around 15 per cent in total returns.

The National Association of Pensions Funds (NAPF) believes that the change could cost a total of £75 billion. However, others claim that it will just result in a different valuation basis for company pension schemes. Changes to the investment strategies of pensions will further limit the impact.

Yesterday, John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, proposed a new type of personal pension called a Designated Personal Pension (DPP), which would avoid some of the current weaknesses. He called on ministers to include the DPP in future pensions policy. DPPs would work on the basis of collective investment rather than every one having their own individual pension 'pot'. In response to concerns about high pension plan charges, DPPs would only be allowed to charge a fixed fee. A worker who decided to opt for a DPP would be entitled to a contribution to it from his or her employer. 'DPPs would provide a secure and economic way of providing for retirement,' said Mr Bridgeman.

The Government now has the difficult task of maximising pensions for those who are already in work, as well as finding a long-term solution for future generations. They must do this in a way that will not lead to the industry exploiting the public for a second time.

America provides possible savings solution

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

IN THE past few years British politicians have searched the globe for a model for pension provision. The Tories were most impressed with the Chilean system. Labour has examined not only the Chilean plan but also arrangements in Argentina and Singapore.

But to date no minister has extolled the virtues of the 401(k). America's answer to the universal pension conundrum: how to limit pension costs for employers while giving employees flexibility, and the hope of a decent income in retirement.

Employees save tax-free in 401(k) plans, which take their name from a section of the US tax code. They are comparable to UK money-purchase company schemes but differ in many important aspects, including investment choice. Employers match their workers' contributions up to a certain level but do not guarantee the benefits payable, so reducing their expenditure. At larger companies, 401(k) plans will often supplement defined benefit schemes, with guaranteed payouts.

Employees changing jobs can take their pensions to a new company. They will also soon be enjoying extra protection from plundering bosses in legislation planned by the Clinton Administration. Employees can choose between a range of bond, index and equity funds.

The explosive growth of the 401(k) has proved a boon not only for the mutual funds industry (the US equivalent of the unit trust sector) but also for the stock market. The regular flow of funds into 401(k) plans has powered the upsurge of the Dow Jones industrial average.

However, some 401(k) plan holders fight shy of equities, one drawback of the system. Jessica Mann, of the global asset team at Watson Wyatt, the actuaries, explains: 'There are 30-year-olds with half of their money in cash and bonds, as they do not see that the highest growth long term will come from equities.'

Some believe the simplicity of the 401(k), which has encouraged Americans to increase their retirement savings, make it the pension paradigm Britain should copy. Others say the cost of the changeover would be prohibitive.



Clinton: pension legislation

Man and machine battle for supremacy

Martin Waller on whether index-tracking fund management is better than the personal touch

The battle is between man and machine: the outcome could mean the loss of thousands of highly paid jobs. The argument is between active and passive fund management. For years, the men and women who have charge of the nation's pensions have adopted an active role and rewarded themselves handsomely for the risks they have taken with other people's money.

This meant scrutinising every single share that makes up their individual funds. Rigorous analysis, using research techniques evolved in the higher branches of mathematics, are used. They show, in excruciating detail, why such and such a share should be bought or sold.

In addition, there is the personal touch. Fund managers are on first-name terms with executives at the companies whose shares they hold. Information passes to the market, sometimes in ways that skirt the insider trading laws.

So managers actively trade the shares in their portfolios, selling this stock on a profit warning, buying that on an upgrade of this year's profits forecast. It is an expensive approach. The skills required drive salaries

high — Nicola Horlick, the £1 million-a-year 'superwoman' at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, was not exceptional. There are also the endless dealing costs.

In recent years a more passive approach has gained ground. Why not just buy a selection of all the stocks on the market, spreading the risk of individual share price collapses but gaining from the market's apparently unstoppable rise? A simple computer program will ensure a representative holding of, for example, the FTSE 100 index or any other index. The fund merely tracks the market.

The advantages are cost and, possibly, a more even return over a number of years. Those six-figure salaries need not be paid and there are fewer dealing costs. And individual fund managers have good years and bad ones. The decision by PPFM, a typical active fund, to scale down equity holdings in favour of cash

in 1995 has made the fund manager one of the worst performers since then.

There are more sophisticated forms of passive fund management. So-called quantitative management uses a number of different measures to decide in which shares to invest. But this is still an objective process, the computer programs themselves throwing up the chosen investments, rather than a subjective one of individual stock-picking.

In 1995, according to the National Association of Pension Funds, a fifth of all pension schemes used indexed methods, at least in part. The figure for the public sector, which prefers a secured, safe return, is a third. The unanswered question is whether tracker funds outperform actively managed funds over a long period. Active funds have certainly performed best over the past couple of years, in

part for technical reasons to do with the number of partial stock market flotations, which disadvantage the trackers.

Paul Klumpes, of Lancaster University, in a paper for the OFT, admits that the evidence is contradictory. But he says the main arguments 'imply that it will be difficult for active investment managers to consistently outperform passive funds, especially when the effects of fees and transaction costs are accounted for'.

Passive analysis has plenty of critics in the City. Aside from the potential job losses, there is disquiet over the notion of turning over fund management to impersonal 'black boxes'. The 1987 stock market crash was made more vertiginous by the number of computerised trading systems on Wall Street that were hard to turn off once they had started to sell.

The head of one City investment house, which had long shunned the shares of a particular company but had just bought a parcel of stock, was then phoned by his chief executive, who congratulated him on his decision to start investing again. 'Nothing to do with human intelligence, old boy — it was only the black box,' he replied.

Flame flickers

THE ghost of Howard Hodgson still hovers over Ronson, the lighter manufacturer he was thrown out of six weeks ago. He is refusing to speak to me, but I hear he has approached an offshore fund that holds almost 18 per cent of the company and offered to buy the stake at twice the market price, in order to call an extraordinary meeting to have his tormentors thrown out in their turn.

The stake is held by Albion Consolidated. He received a dusty reply. The ever-optimistic Hodgson had the backing of a big Hong Kong concern.



'It's Albert Einstein. Can someone explain his pension policy to him again?'

The funds paid 25p a share last year and were offered 27p, against a price last night of 14½p. With access to fresh funds, he planned to come back as chief executive of a company he is still besotted with and revive its fortunes. Alas, a slight miscalculation. It was the misnamed Albion, based in the Middle East, that was most offended by his live-in relationship with Christine Fickles, the former acting finance director. This may even have influenced the decision to refuse his offer.

● MIKE GREENLEES, the head of GGT Group, is worried about how the City perceives his company. Well, for a start the City is worried about how its expensive purchase, BDDP, is doing. Linda Kaplan-Thaler, the creative director of the New York arm of BDDP and a big cheese there, is leaving. Known for her work on Toys 'R' Us, Compaq and Foot Locker, she wants to spend 'more time with her family'. You can buy them, but you can't keep them.

Clear as mud

EVERYTHING you always wanted to know about pensions but were too befuddled to ask. The Office of Fair



Trading's three-volume study into the subject decided that pension products have been marketed in an 'unnecessarily complex way' which has confused the simple consumer. Absolutely. To make things easier, I have reproduced a section of the report dealing with the loss caused by frequent job changes:

$$PL_{DP} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n M(t) \cdot (1 - t - t_0)}{t - t_0}$$

Any questions? No, I didn't think there would be.

Deep pile

NICHOLAS JEFFREY, who is 'retiring' as executive deputy chairman of H&C Furnishings, the furniture business that last year brought together

Sir Harry Solomon of Hillsdown fame and carpet king Lord Harris of Peckham, has knocked together a handsome leaving present. He is picking up £1.5 million on the way out of the door. Half is for shrinking his former five-year contract back to two years; this cash has already been paid. The rest is a payoff for ending that contract but agreeing to stick around as a non-executive director.

● A MINI-CONSUMER boom is being planned at the Personal Investment Authority. There is talk of exotic holiday brochures being passed from hand to hand and much excited scanning of the property pages. The reason is the creation of the planned 'super-SIB', the umbrella body that will encompass the PIA, the Securities and Investments Board and all that other split Scrabble board of regulatory organisations, plus some of the Bank of England's policing duties.

It seems that, for purely historical reasons, the PIA staff have always earned rather less than their SIB counterparts. This is because they have tended to be drawn from the ranks of the personal finance world rather than from banking, and personal finance people have never been paid as much as bankers. The dream is that when the two are united, pay scales will have to be brought in line — and the SIB people are not going to accept a cut.

Bearing up

BOB AYLING, of BA, on how he copes with the pressure of being Britain's most hated boss: 'I wake up in the morning thinking I had better get a cup of tea for my wife. That's my first job. Then I think about whether the children have eaten all the fruit, and whether there's any left for me.'

'And then I think about Farming Today — I've learned more about farming in Britain over the last 10 years than I ever knew before. And then I start thinking about what the day's got in store. And then I start thinking about getting to work.'

MARTIN WALLER



Lord Harris of Peckham: £1.3 million parting shot for H&C deputy chairman

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

CLASSIC VISA CARD/MASTERCARD®, AFFINITY MASTERCARD, UNITY FIRST MASTERCARD AND GLOBAL VISA CARD.

Bank of Scotland announces a change in the monthly rate of interest charged to our Classic Visa Card/MasterCard, Affinity MasterCard, Unity First MasterCard and Global Visa Card Cardholders.

The monthly rate will be increased to 1.53%.

Interest will be charged at the new rate and shown on cardholders' statements issued from 22nd August, 1997, and for balances left outstanding from statements dated 23rd July, 1997 and after.



Bank of Scotland, Card Services, Dunfermline, Fife KY99 4BS. The Logo, Bank of Scotland and A Friend for Life are all registered trade marks of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland.

بِذَاتِ الْأَهْلِ

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

EQUITY PRICES 31

Prices continue to be squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

BREWERS, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

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High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

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High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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OIL & GAS

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

RETAILERS, FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

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PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

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High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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TEXTILES & APPAREL

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
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TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

RETAILERS, GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

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10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
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BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2
10.00	9.80	Heineken	10.00	+0.20	15.2

SHORTS (under 5 years)

102%	109%	Heineken 04/2002	110%	-	8.82	7.24		
102%	109%	Heineken 05/2002	103%	-	170	118	114%	115%
102%	109%	Heineken 06/2002	103%	-	170	118	114%	115%
102%	110%	Heineken 11/10/2002-04	103%	-	10.14	2.25	104%	105%
102%	109%	Ind. 04/1998-04	80%	-	4.07	5.90	117%	117%
114%	109%	Carac 04/2004	102%	-	8.41	3.15	102%	150
114%	109%	Carac 05/2004	102%	-	8.41	3.15	102%	150
114%	109%	Carac 06/2004	102%	-	8.41	3.15	102%	150
114%	109%	Carac 09/2004	102%	-	7.64	1.15	108%	117%
122%	119%	Carac 04/2005	112%	-	6.26	7.17	132%	140%
122%	119%	Carac 05/2005-05	112%	-	6.26	7.17	132%	140%
122%	119%	Carac 06/2005	112%	-	6.26	7.17	132%	140%
107%	109%	Heineken 04/2006	102%	-	7.48	1.16	127%	122%
107%	109%	Heineken 05/2006-06	102%	-	7.73	1.70	128%	119%

Master of the maverick class

Are the Proms as lively as they were? It shouldn't take long to answer this question. For after the profundity of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* on the First Night (this Friday), and the resuscitation of a hardly-known Schubert opera about the Crusades to excite the classical anoraks on Saturday, the Albert Hall will go stark staring funky on Sunday.

In one exhilarating, noisy programme the American composer John Adams will steer the Ensemble Modern through a kind of Sprint History of Maverick American Music. It will range from minimalist pieces by Steve Reich and Philip Glass, and a new work by Adams himself, to extracts from Frank Zappa's *The Yellow Shark*. Regrettably there won't be anything by Charles Ives, the pilgrim father of American musical eccentricity. But his spiritual successor, the 80-year-old Lou Harrison, will be represented by his *Concerto for Organ and Percussion* (reviewed below by Jamie James) — in which, it is whispered, the organist must administer several clouts on his keyboard with a mallet. That's something you don't get in Bach.

And the Prom will also unveil a commissioned piece by Michael Gordon, the new enfant terrible. He grew up in the Nicaraguan jungle (as one does), went to Yale, played in underground rock bands, toured an ensemble modestly called the Michael Gordon Philharmonic, and now writes pieces that proclaim their all-encompassing trendiness with titles such as *Yo, Shakespeare*. When he played the Queen Elizabeth Hall last year his encore was a Kurt Cobain number, which was seen as something of a mission statement.

For John Adams such a programme is less a concert, more the

Richard Morrison
meets the composer

John Adams, who
brings a feast of
American music to
Sunday's Prom

embodiment of a credo. Ever since this Harvard-educated musician decided, in 1971, to drive across America and settle in San Francisco — a symbolic rejection of the over-cerebral new-music establishment on the East Coast — he has revelled in the incongruous collisions, the crossovers, the carefree iconoclasm, that has always characterised the best American music. "There is no dominant stream in American music," he says. "That's its strength. And American culture has always celebrated the vernacular. The most vital advances are propelled by popular culture."

He is right. At the turn of the century Ives was already embracing marching bands, spirituals and street sounds in his music. Bernstein and Copland wrote their greatest scores under the influence of popular idioms. And present-day American composers writing in the anti-complexity style known as minimalism (which Adams declares to be "the only important musical development in the past 30 years") have consistently drawn inspiration from popular music.

"You can hear that in our Prom," Adams says. "Each of us is responding to the popular music of his era. Reich reflects jazz of the 1950s and 1960s. My piece responds to rock and salsa of the 1970s. And

Gordon's sounds are post-punk. It's impossible for an American composer not to be influenced by the vernacular. It's all around. Every time you sit in the traffic you hear somebody's killer sound-system." But Adams, just turned 50, has responded to far more than the sounds in the air. He came to attention ten years ago with his opera *Nixon in China*, which stunned the world twice over — first for taking modern politics as its subject; and secondly for portraying Nixon, Kissinger and Mao not as caricatures but as tragic figures, brooding over their failures in music of exquisite melancholy.

That monumental work inaugurated a new genre: docu-opera. Adams has so far contributed two more works to the species. *The Death of Klinghoffer* was a dark meditation on the *Achille Lauro* hijacking. Then came the philly-named *I was looking at the ceiling* and then *I saw the sky*, ostensibly about the Los Angeles earthquake, but really a very look at the American Dream turning sour.

Contemporary culture has spilled into Adams's non-operatic work, too. A violin and piano piece is called *Road Movies*; while his orchestral work, *El Dorado*, reflects a fashionable green concern about land despoliation.

Oddly, considering how much time Adams has devoted to opera, he professes ambivalence about the art form. "It's not the commanding idiom that it was a hundred years ago. Movies have taken over. Opera is a museum form now."

So why write operas? "Because it is still one of the few art forms that can exist on a mythic level and address the large issues of life." Is it distressing, though, when a work as important and accessible as



Nixon is ignored by virtually all European opera houses? "That says more about the conservatism of the opera industry than it does about the quality of the work," Adams replies. "Writing opera is like buying very long-term bonds. You don't expect an instant return."

Outside the opera world, however, Adams is phenomenally popular. That won't surprise anybody who knows his *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, a four-minute cracker that will surely be a sensation at the Last Night of this year's Proms. The word "minimalist" is an absurd reduction of such music, which has bags of passion, drive and drama. It welcomes listeners to its world. Dancers, too, love Adams. His *Fearful Symmetries* has been choreographed eight times.

Even the sterner critics are mellowing to Adams. "Yes, I don't

receive the trashings that I got ten years ago," says the composer. "I suppose that if you are around long enough, the critical establishment starts to put up with you."

John Adams conducts at the Albert Hall (071-589 8212) on Sunday at 7.30pm. The concert is live on Radio 3



Last call: Darcy Bussell and Igor Zelensky in *Romeo and Juliet*

Before the break

Politics in the auditorium was one thing, with glib-edged representatives of both the last and the current Government all present and correct, but then there was the politics on stage, who was to be there and why? Those who believe that the Royal Ballet has always had the fuzzy end of the lollipop in the Royal Opera House should take heart from the fact that there was noticeably more dance at Monday's Farewell Gala than there was opera, and that the Royal Ballet opened and closed both halves, with that great symbol of continuity Bernard Haitink conducting the beginning and the end.

The chief architects of the Royal Ballet's repertoire were properly represented, Ashton with *La Valse* — a fine showcase for the company — and the magical *Dream Duet*, and MacMillan with corresponding showpieces from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Manon*; Darcy Bussell and the Kirov's Igor Zelensky as ethereal in the former as Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Cope were sensual in the latter.

Viviana Durante and Irek Mukhammedov nearly stopped the show with *Diana and Actaeon*, which I confess had hitherto escaped me, and with luck will continue to do so. It's delicious rubbish, irresistibly performed. In the popular *Corsaire* variation, Tetsuya Kumakawa proved to be one of those rare dancers who defies gravity at the height of his jumps — breathtaking.

The sharp-eyed will already have noted a cunning mix of guests and home-based artists, which along with a similarly cunning mix of past, present and future was also evident in the operatic items. As a representation of what the resident companies have achieved in the last 50 years, this programme was in a different class from last year's Gold and Silver Gala. The Pub Scene from *Peter Grimes* brought Heather Harper and Elizabeth Bainbridge out of retirement, and saw the house debut of the Cardiff Singer of the World prizewinner Christopher Maltman, plus Anthony Rolfe Johnson singing Grimes with inimitable mellifluousness and Sir Colin Davis conducting.

A second former music director, Sir George Solti, was on hand for Verdi: Plácido Domingo in Otello's

Farewell Gala
Covent Garden

Death Scene, and Bryn Terfel in Iago's Credo. Both were in stentorian voice.

Sir Colin also conducted Felicity Lott, Anne Howells and Thomas Allen in *Così fan tutte*, a nice teaser for his return to the company with this opera in the autumn, and Haitink returned for the most rapid item of the evening, the *Fidelio* quartet led by Josephine Barstow, and — less respectably — for a waltz in Strauss, a sweetmeat from *Arabian Nights* with Anna Tomowa-Sintow and Franz Grundheber, and the *Rosenkavalier* Trio with what I can only think of as Les Girls: Lott, Ann Murray and Lillian Watson, sweetmeats indeed.

The final item assaulted the tear-glands mercilessly: the scenery flew out and Darcy Bussell as the Lilac Fairy put the rickety old theatre to sleep, with both companies on stage gazing in wonder and affection at the scene of so much achieved. But that sleep will last only two years, not a hundred. Enough nostalgia, charmingly provoked last night: every one's sights must be firmly on 2000.

For all their glitz, galas never quite find artists at their best and perhaps the real farewell came at Saturday's *Meistersinger*, when even critics purged years of contempt by paying for their seats and along with a genuine Covent Garden audience were treated to a performance in a hundred, with Haitink up on cloud nine and everyone on stage, not least John Tomlinson, giving that extra inch.

At the mention of chorus and orchestra in Jeremy Isaacs's upbeat, perfectly judged curtain speech, the audience roared its approbation, and that's what it's all about: starting from scratch 50 years ago, Covent Garden has built up a world-class opera and dance machine, and nothing — temporary closure, passing management blips, even malign governments — can change that.

RODNEY MILNES

This review appeared in late editions of The Times yesterday

A heavenly West Coast racket

Since he took over as music director of the San Francisco Symphony two years ago, Michael Tilson Thomas has established himself as the most venturesome, even visionary programmer on the American orchestral scene. He concluded the current season with an ambitious two-week festival entitled *Celebrations of the Sacred and Profane*, comprising five programmes — he conducted all of them — of "music whose flame is sparked by the friction between our earliest desires and our most spiritual aspirations".

The opening night of the festival emphasised the heavenly, coupling the American premiere of Giacinto Scelsi's microtonal *Aion* and the Mozart's *Requiem*. *Aion* is subtitled *Four Episodes in One Day of Brahma*, but the Indian subtext appears to be intellectual more than musical. Scored for a low-

pitched orchestra — four tubas (muted with rubbish-bin lids), low strings, and an array of percussion — the piece is densely textured. The Mozart proved to be a rather pallid, dispirited affair.

The week's high point was an all-Schubert symphonic programme — composed by many hands. It opened with the American premiere of Hans Werner Henze's exuberant fantasia on *Erkdnig*, followed by the rollicking huntsmen's chorus *Nachtgesang im Walde* and the *Unfinished Symphony*. The songs were dispatched with suave Schubertian style by bass-baritone Nathan Berg. The evening's triumph was a superb performance of Luciano Berio's *Rendering*, based upon Schubert's sketches for his tenth, unwritten symphony.

The most uneven programme was the one given the most hype —

Celebrations of the Sacred and Profane
San Francisco

an afternoon devoted to new music entitled *The Mavericks*, in which former Grateful Dead bass player Phil Lesh joined Tilson Thomas as presenter. It was difficult to understand why Lesh was there, except to lead a note of hipness, yet he seemed as hip as a maths teacher, slouching and mumbling in rumpled chinos.

The two men continually told the audience that the music it was hearing was radical and revolutionary, but the proceedings were tame enough, apart from Lou Harrison's *Concerto for Organ and Percussion*, a jubilant racket scored for a battery of instruments

including oxygen tanks, car brake drums and oil drums, and four songs premiered by David Del Tredici called *Gay Life*, setting texts by Allen Ginsberg and Federico Garcia Lorca.

Baritone William Sharp sang competently, but was very much outshone by the composer, who accompanied him with dazzling virtuosity on the piano.

Otherwise, the legendary minimalist Terry Riley noodled away pointlessly at the keyboard for nearly half an hour like a pianist at a cosmic cocktail lounge, and Steven Mackey played some gutsy Hendrix riffs on electric guitar, backed by a string quartet, drums, and a wailing lead singer.

The festival's other programmes were devoted to Berg, Bach, Weill and Berlioz.

JAMIE JAMES

John Higgins meets the man who will supply the sauce for Glyndebourne's Rossini

Glyndebourne could be set for some fun when *Le Comte Ory* opens on Sunday. It has been 40 years since the last production there of Rossini's final comedy, his only one to a French text. In tune with Ory's Gallic spirit Glyndebourne has turned to one of France's leading entertainers, Jérôme Savary, for the new staging.

Savary, aged 55, has also been in the entertainment business for close on 40 years and played almost every role: actor, acrobat, musician, director, designer, scriptwriter, impresario. He began as a street clown, went on to play jazz and chauffeured Charlie Parker's widow.

In his early twenties he formed his own company, which became the Grand Magic Circus et ses Animaux Tristes. It roamed Europe and came to London for a few seasons at the Roundhouse in Camden, putting on zany shows. There was a left-wing message, spectacle, lots of pretty girls in various stages of undress and plenty of songs from operetta and the music-hall. But it was not a circus and appeared to have no animals, a typical Savary joke.

"Every circus needs animals and they were there, we humans," Savary explains. "We are the saddest animals of all, however much we try to hide our animality behind tuxedos and black ties." The Beatles came to the Roundhouse and John Lennon in particular picked Savary's brains. "He was worried that the Beatles sound was becoming too 'clean'. He reckoned we were producing the right 'dirty' sound and asked how we did it. The answer was by placing four grand pianos at different points in the theatre, ditto four of the oldest drums available. Add in a damp atmosphere, which the Roundhouse certainly provided, and you get a dirty sound. John went away and thought about that. Later he sent a cheque, which kept us on the road a bit longer."

The Magic Circus eventually ran out of money in the mid 1970s. The co-operative was disbanded, although Savary jibs at the word. "Co-operative? We were a bunch of

Outré for the Count



Jérôme Savary: from street clown to Glyndebourne director

theatrical mercenaries, led by a pirate chief — me." The chief still keeps in touch with his crew, whose members once included Luc Bondy, Micheline Presle and Delphine Seyrig.

After the Circus struck its tent for the last time Savary made his first forays into musical theatre via Offenbach. "I despised opera then as being a bourgeois entertainment and simply had memories of my mother playing *The Magic Flute* endlessly on the gramophone. But Frankfurt asked me to stage *La Vie parisienne* and I was then invited by Felsenstein to do *Le Voyage dans la lune* at the Komische Oper. He paid me almost nothing, but in 12 weeks' rehearsal I learnt most of what

there was to be learnt about directing opera."

This little-heard Offenbach occupies a special place in the Savary career. He devised a different staging for Geneva in 1987 and there is talk of yet another version for the Bastille as part of the millennium celebrations.

It was a rather different musical, *Cabaret*, which landed Savary the job of running the massive Théâtre du Châtelet, where his contract has just been renewed until 2000. Mitterrand himself made the proposal after seeing the show. What caught the President's eye?

"Ah, well *Cabaret* is all about political compromise and he would have understood that," is Savary's characteristically provocative re-

ply. Another reason could have been the presence of Ute Lemper in the lead role and the quality of Savary's production.

"The Châtelet appointment caused a bit of a stir, especially in right-wing circles. There were questions about putting a clown in charge of a state theatre. But it was gradually admitted that I am a deliberately popular director who sets out to fill seats. So the rightists now like me. There are good Savary shows and not so good ones, but there are no boring ones."

And so back to Rossini, who also knew a thing or two about catering for public taste. Savary has directed all his major comedies, though no serious operas. Ory, about the farcical efforts of a count to seduce a noblewoman while her husband is at the Crusades, looks ready-made for him. Ezio Toffolutti, who works regularly at the Châtelet, is a highly decorative designer and is keeping it in period.

"I like ladies and I like opera buffa. The best adjective to describe Ory is *paillard* [bawdy]. The original play was even more *paillard*, but Rossini's librettist, Scribe, cleaned it up a bit. Yes, it stays at the time of the Crusades, if I were 30 years younger I would probably have set it in a Hong Kong brothel. Now I leave that sort of thing to the new generation. But we will have a large bed rising from the stage in Act II when the Count tries to make love to his page believing he is the Countess Adèle. In it there will be three disembodied singing heads. It'll remind me of the Three Boys trilling away on a cloud in *The Magic Flute*."

This will be the second time he has directed Ory. The previous occasion was in Lyons for John Eliot Gardiner. "Lyons was a rush two-week job to fit in with a recording schedule. I remember John Eliot coming up to me after the first night and saying I hadn't put much work into the production but that it was great fun. This time round he'll probably say: 'Hm. Lots of work, but not much fun.'"

Savary, as usual, was just kidding.

Le Comte Ory opens at Glyndebourne (01223 813813) on Sunday

Soaring and swooping

If any one performance of *The Damnation of Faust* could make up for what happened to it a few weeks ago at the London Coliseum, this was it. Back in the concert hall, where it exclusively belongs, with some 500 choral voices and an orchestra grudging nothing in meeting its most extravagant requirements, it had every opportunity to rehabilitate itself as an incomparable masterpiece.

Even as an opera only "for the mind's eye" (as David Cairns describes it in his excellent programme note), *The Damnation of Faust* has its dramatic problems: Berlioz's habit of adapting his text to provide a home for stray musical inspirations — although he is by no means as self-indulgent

THE DAMNATION OF FAUST
Birmingham

about it in this case as he is in *Lélio* — is an obstacle to credibility. For all its quality in terms of technique, the first half of Sir Simon Ratcliffe's interpretation with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra failed to register more than an acoustic effect, brilliantly achieved though it was.

From the beginning of Part III, where Marguerite appears, the atmosphere in Symphony Hall was quite different. Maria Ewing's soprano lies a little low for the part, which meant that she had difficulty in controlling the colouring of some of the notes above the stage. With her first entry, however, on a not very pretty but meaningful downward swoop, she gave notice that the role is real to her. By the time she came to her Romaine she was singing beautifully.

She was clearly an inspiration to Vinson Cole, who had so far shaped Faust's vocal line with exemplary clarity and elegance, and who now found passion there too. He went so far as to try a swoop himself. Willard White, as an heroic survivor from the ENO production, is as experienced a Mephistopheles as any, his occasionally dubious French somehow adding to the macabre effect.

The orchestral playing, too, was on a different level. *The Minuet of the Will-o'-the-Wisp* in Part III was no less finely executed than the charmingly coloured *Dance of the Sylphs* in Part II, but at the same time it had the essential eerie edge.

As for the chorus — or choruses, including those in Birmingham for the *Voices in the City* festival — there was no weakness even in the tricky episodes. In the last two movements, *Pandemonium* and *Heaven*, the combined efforts of the City Chorus and Youth Chorus, the City of Birmingham Chorus, the William Hall Master Chorus of Los Angeles and the Vancouver Bach Choir were devastating. If the baritone children's choir added little to the vocal effect, it was surely a coup de théâtre Berlioz himself would have enjoyed.

GERALD LARNER

The good, the new and the spicy

David Sinclair on how he and the other Mercury Music Prize judges reduced 155 albums to a quirky shortlist of ten

Yesterday the 1997 Mercury Music Prize shortlist was announced, prompting the usual accusations that the judges had bowed to a combination of populist, elitist and tokenist pressures. Is the presence of the Spice Girls on the list purely due to musical merit? Is the aggressive orchestral dissonance of Mark-Anthony Turnage's album *Your Rockaby*, with its "panoply of percussion ranging from bodhrans to a saucepan", seriously going to appeal to anyone beyond a small clique of classical music cognoscenti? And who the hell is Roni Size/Reprezent?

As one of the judging panel which has spent the past seven weeks listening to and attempting to evaluate the 155 or so albums that were entered this time, I can only say we tried our hardest to arrive at a shortlist that offers a balanced picture of the best that British music has had to offer in the last year. And if the cutting edge dance music of Roni Size and his Bristol-based collective Reprezent hasn't made much of an impact yet, you just wait.

Our choices undoubtedly confirm certain prejudices. Five of the albums have topped the British chart. Four of the acts, including John Tavener and Prodigy, have appeared on previous shortlists, while two of them (Primal Scream and Suede) are past winners. A straw poll among our peers in the music industry, conducted by the trade magazine *Music Week* successfully predicted six of the ten albums on the shortlist, and I have heard of people asking the bookies for odds on either Radiohead or Prodigy to win, even before the shortlist was announced.

So what exactly is the Mercury Music Prize designed to do? While the organisers talk about turning "a notion of musical quality into a concrete reality", the editor of *Music Week* sees it as a means of boosting record sales. Thus, she argues, "the most productive reason for having a Mercury Prize is surely to champion those records which might otherwise be overlooked".



Excellence v popularity: are the Spice Girls on the Mercury shortlist through musical merit, or do sales play a part? And who the hell is Roni Size/Reprezent?

The trouble with that is that if you were to rule out records which "don't need" the kudos of a Mercury endorsement, or the £25,000 cheque which goes to the winner, the prize would rapidly lose its authority and become another of those forums where a small group of specialists seek to foist their passion for the new and the quirky on to an increasingly sceptical and uninterested public.

On the other hand, the list should not be arrived at by some sort of sales- or quota-based system, and this year the inclusion of two classical albums, the absence of a jazz album and the unusually high percentage of dance records all tell their own story.

The Mercury Prize is a celebration as much as a calibration of British music in all its diversity, and part of the joy of music is that it cannot be contained by notions of "excellence" or "popularity". Music can be both these things or neither, yet ultimately it speaks to each of us in a personal voice. It is not like an athletics event or a football match, where great artistry may be the result of striving to reach an objectively defined goal.

In strictly functional terms, therefore, the Mercury Music Prize may be little more than a marketing tool. But as an ideal it exists to recognise a pinnacle of achievement that defies logical understanding. The winner of the Mercury Music Prize will be announced at a televised presentation dinner on August 22.

THE TEN SHORTLISTED ALBUMS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dig Your Own Hole | The Chemical Brothers |
| Trailer Park | Beth Orton |
| Vanishing Point | Primal Scream |
| The Fat Of The Land | Prodigy |
| OK Computer | Radiohead |
| Newforms | Roni Size/Reprezent |
| Spice | The Spice Girls |
| Coming Up | Suede |
| Syyed | John Tavener/Steven Isserlis |
| Your Rockaby | Mark-Anthony Turnage |

She who won't surrender

Not many black American soul singers relocate to Britain to further their careers, but then Jhelisa Anderson has never done anything the conventional way. She comes from one of America's foremost musical families (relatives include Bobby Byrd and Vicki Anderson, and the singers Pamela and Carleen Anderson), but she chose instead to take her chances in London and after singing on a couple of the Shamen's hits, signed to a small independent label. Two albums later the move is beginning to pay dividends.

Her maverick approach was evident from the way she kept a packed Jazz Café waiting until almost 10.30pm before taking the

stage, right through to the string quartet she brought on almost two hours later. In between, she showed that despite her often iconoclastic approach, she has not abandoned soul music's traditional virtues. Together with performers such as D'Angelo, Maxwell, and Erykah Badu, she has come to typify what is now known as nu classic soul — contemporary beats which wear with pride their musical heritage stretching back to 1970s funk and beyond.

She has a voice of vast power and range which she uses with controlled abandon, oscillating between the out-and-out funk of *Everybody Jump Off*, her new single, and an unhurried, after-hours strut, heard to best effect on *Language Electric*, the title track of her second album.

The musical sophistication is counterpointed by an emotional rawness in lyrics such as *Freedom From Pity*, which deals unflinchingly with being trapped in an abusive relationship, and *Sell Me Away*, an angry diatribe about an arranged marriage.

Yet Jhelisa is not just a songwriter. Having opened with her own instrumental composition, *Story Of A Musician's Madness*, she showed her versatility by closing with *Bête Noir*, her own stark arrangement for string quartet. There is in everything she does a defiant strength that makes the in-your-face posturings of the rock babes look mere petulance. "No compromise, no surrender," she sang repeatedly at the end of *My Ego Needs Me Tonight*. It ought to be her signature.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

From mud to makeovers

You can take T in The Park out of Glasgow, but you can't take Glasgow out of T in The Park, as the first sighting of a discarded Buckfast bottle a good few miles from the bigger, better and decidedly bumpier new home for Scotland's premier open-air music festival attests. Yet the collapse of Scotland's main ticket agency, leaving the promoters to pick up the considerable tab, combined with a typically capricious Scottish summer and an increasingly congested festival circuit, could have made for the dampest of squibs.

As it was, the sun shone — for a while anyway — on a predictable array of acts on the main stage, though the real gems were to be found under canvas. The Slam Muzik Stage and Radio One Evening Session Stage offered a stream of low and hi-fi delights, with Mogwai, Death In Vegas, Daft Punk and Monaco hopefully knocking a final and welcome nail in the guitar-shaped coffin of Britpop.

It was pretty much a celebrity-free zone this year. The whisper was that the ubiquitous Noel Gallagher was set to jam with big mates Paul Weller and Ocean Colour

Scene, prompting muted hoots all round. The biggest surprise was that, unless he kept an uncharacteristically low profile, he didn't turn up, although his brother did. No, not that one, the one who isn't famous.

It wouldn't be a show without Punch, though, and sure enough, there was Chris Evans, surrounded by photographers, though a far better picture would have been if he had ended up in the mud.

On the main stage, the Charlatans played a blinder, though a potentially more interesting proposition were the once dreadful G.U.N., and the once very good Texas, both of whom have benefited from makeovers of late. Texas's smoothed-out soul is a far selier proposition, simply because Sharleen Spiteri possesses the voice of an angel, and they didn't need INXS's Andrew Farriss to knock them into shape.

One can only speculate why Farriss wished to produce G.U.N.'s new album, though it has produced a couple of catchy, pop singles in *My*

Sweet Jane and *Crazy You*. All well and good, except that five they sound like the clumpy, sub-metal tosh they always have — apart from *Word Up*, of course, their finest five minutes. With a stage patter straight off the Glasgow cabaret circuit, front man Mark Rankin plays the cheap shot Scottish card, though where G.U.N.'s old-fashioned, thump-along rock comes from, it sure ain't home.

Texas, on the other hand, are having none of it. Having been left out in the wilderness after at least one great album, they blew back into town earlier this year with a great single titled *Say What You Want* and a suspicious amount of gloss covering up the grit of yore. Yet the bulk of the new material is still as sassy, just more grown-up, while old songs such as *I Don't Want A Lower* are dragged into less Ludite times.

And so to Paul Weller, who knows more about reinvention than most. Changing man or mutton dressed as lamb, though, he has gone as far as he can with his current set of

hand-me-down threads, and needs to think again beyond his brand of guitar histrionics. Weller can huff and puff as much as he likes, but, rather than hot licks and heavy soul, it only sounds like hot air and heavy weather. For every brilliant song such as *The Weaver*, there are half a dozen slices of faceless, pub rock stodge. A new song, *Friday Street*, raises expectations, but soon slips anonymously into the mud brought on by Sunday's heavy showers.

You could easily slither off to catch 15 minutes of the far more engaging Beth Orton, have a go on the funfair and grab an overpriced burger before paddling back to endure some more of what sounded suspiciously like the same guitar solo. For on this showing at least, Weller's song remains much the same. And this is no idle Led Zeppelin analogy, for the way he's been plundering the decades of late, it shouldn't be too long before he is ripping off some of his old Jam songs.

Whether they would be authentic or not, we will have to wait until next year, or at least until tomorrow.

NEIL COOPER

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

BRIAN MILLIGAN

Age 15.

In demand: With performances on stage, television and in the forthcoming Daniel Day-Lewis film, *The Boxer*, to his credit over the past year, he is on the way to becoming Northern Ireland's most famous child actor.

National debut: Last week, he and a dozen fellow pupils from Lagan College, near Belfast, were at the Cottesloe Theatre performing Gina Moxley's *Dog House*, part of the BT National Connections project. "I think, but still figures out that two of the local kids are being violently abused by their father."

Does he take his acting seriously? Very. For *Dog House* he read articles on

child abuse and studied a television documentary about teenage joyriders in Belfast, adopting the mannerisms of one for Jimmy.

Mentor: *Dog House* director Jo McColgan, Lagan's "brilliant" drama teacher. "He introduced me to acting and it just grabbed me. He showed me how you can really let yourself go on stage."

How did he break into television? McColgan suggested he audition for the gritty drama series, *Safe and Sound*, and he duly landed the part of a young snooker ace whose father has been killed in the Troubles.

Instant fame: "After *Safe and Sound* was shown last September, people were stop-



ping me in the street and asking 'Was that you on the telly the other night?' It was great."

What about the Day-Lewis film? The very tight lid being kept on pre-release publicity for *The Boxer*, in which Day-Lewis plays a Belfast fighter

rebuilding his life after 13 years in prison, means Brian is "not allowed" to talk about his part. But he can reveal that the location filming in Dublin in April gave him "a great buzz, a feeling you just can't put into words."

Sibling rivalry: He faces competition from his elder brother, Ciaran, who has appeared in the children's TV show *Wise Up*, and also featured in *Dog House*.

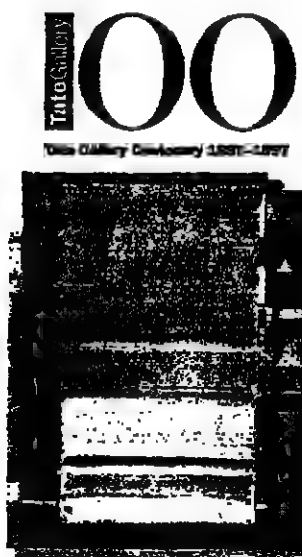
Any idols? Day-Lewis and Robert De Niro. "I like their style, the way they get all the way inside a character, no matter who they are playing."

Wise head on young shoulders: "I'd like to be an actor, but it would be very tough. You could appear in four films in a row and then suddenly be totally out of a job. If things didn't work out I'd love to teach drama."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

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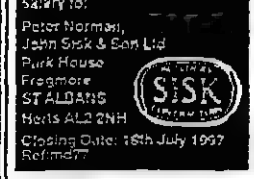
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AAC 4 - £12,951 - £15,264 p.a. inc.

Required to fill an interesting position working for one consultant and his team in the Department of Medical Oncology, a department at the forefront of treatment and research into several forms of cancer, particularly in women. Experience of medical secretarial work in a hospital department would be an advantage.

For an application form and job description please contact: Recruitment Services, 1st Floor, Education Centre, Charing Cross Hospital, Rotherham Palace Road, London W6 8RF. Tel: 0181 237 2374 (24 hour answering machine), quoting ref. no. H/238

Closing date: 31st July 1997.

Benefits include: Advance of salary for initial expenses for house, purchase of car, hairdresser and beauty salon, newspapers, sports club, counselling services and easy access to Central London.

The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust

Aiming to Promote Equal Opportunities and a Smoke Free Environment

SECRETARY/CO-ORDINATOR

Palmer and Central London

We are looking for bright and cheerful individuals with excellent word processing and typing skills to support our busy and dynamic teams at the above branches.

For further details please write, enclosing your CV, salary expectations and preferred location to:

Palmer, Personnel & Training Dept
25-28 Bedford Row
London, WC1R 4BE
Tel: 0171 237 2389

RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE SECRETARY

£15 - 17K dependent on age and experience

FURNEAUX STEWART DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION

is a highly successful design company based in Holland Park W11. We are currently looking for a full time receptionist/office secretary to join our design and project teams. Your role will include telephone answering, typing, greeting clients and office administration. You will need to be conversant with Microsoft Windows 95 with good presentation skills and typing speeds of 70wpm.

If you would like the opportunity to work with this dynamic international design company please send your curriculum vitae and hand written letter marked private and confidential. All applications to be made in writing please.

Julie Barnard
Furneaux Stewart Design and Communication Ltd
16E Portland Road
W11 4LA

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY

Leading Asian Investment Bank needs hard working and flexible team secretary to support their London Equity Sales Desk. Responsibilities will include co-ordination and arranging analysts' roadshows, typing correspondence and preparing slides using Powerpoint. Knowledge of Word 6 and Excel essential. Ideal candidate should possess a lively, outgoing, team-oriented personality with ability to work in a busy promotional office. Working experience preferred.

To apply please send or fax full CV to:

Sara Bennett, Personnel Manager, Furneaux Securities (UK) Limited
10 Alderman Square, London EC3A 4HJ
Fax: 0171 865 8708

Education and Training Department

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

£13,540 - £14,430 p.a.
(starting salary is £13,146 p.a.)

- The Education and Training Department has a wide remit which includes developing and assessing the Council's policies in support of education and training. The department identifies, encourages and supports national initiatives which promote an understanding of the arts, develop arts practice and raise the profile of education and training in the arts.
- The Director is looking for a Personal Assistant who will provide her with a comprehensive and effective secretarial and administrative service and also be able to contribute positively to the work of the department.
- Applicants must have at least 2 years' relevant PA experience (including office management), fast and accurate audio and copy word processing skills and the ability to prioritise and work well under pressure. They should have excellent communication skills, be able to liaise with people at all levels and to organise and minute meetings. Experience of working within an arts, training or education environment is desirable.
- 22 days annual leave rising to 25 after one year's service. Pension scheme available.

For further details and an application form, please send a large (at least 8" x 5") self-addressed envelope, quoting ref. PA-ED, to the Personnel Department, The Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Alternatively, telephone 0171 630 0431 between 10am and 4pm only. Mismatch number (for deaf callers) 0171 973 6564. Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 5pm Friday 25 July. Interviews for those shortlisted are likely to be held: Monday 4 August 1997.

The Arts Council is committed to an equal opportunities recruitment policy.

CREME DE LA CREME

ROOM AT THE TOP

Office Manager £30,000 package

The Sales and Marketing Director of a global solutions and investment services Office Manager to facilitate the smooth running of a department of 250 staff. Working within a professional, dynamic and creative environment. The role will involve the management of a team of staff and the coordination of all sales and marketing activities. The successful candidate will be a proactive, energetic and experienced professional with a proven track record in a similar role. The role will involve the management of a team of staff and the coordination of all sales and marketing activities. The successful candidate will be a proactive, energetic and experienced professional with a proven track record in a similar role.

This progressive trading division, please call us. Committed to equal opportunities.

0171 814 0800

Angela Murtimer

Knightsbridge Connection

c£30,000

Be the soul of discretion and exercise your classic secretarial skills to support American gentlemen. Acting as gatekeeper and office lynchpin in this privately owned tightly knit organisation, you will liaise at the highest level and provide strong lines of communication. In return for this top salary you will be expected to work three late evenings per week. 100 wpm shorthand essential. Call Alison Scott on 0171 434 4512

Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

The Landmark Trust

A Registered Charity
PA to the Director & the Head of Fundraising

An exciting opening has arisen for an experienced PA with a leading historic buildings charity based near Maidenhead.

We need someone with the following essential attributes:

- at least five years' previous secretarial experience, preferably at senior level
- capable of representing the Director and Head of Fundraising in their absence with confidence and discretion
- ability to organise a diverse and demanding workload
- first-class written and spoken English, and computer literacy. Ideally in Word, Access and Excel
- experience in managing people
- energy, flexibility, organisation, sensitivity and a good sense of humour

In addition experience in fundraising or historic buildings would be an advantage.

We offer a competitive salary and other benefits. Please write for an application form to:

The Landmark Trust, Shortleaves, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW.

Closing date for applications: July 31st, 1997.

Executive PA

Heathrow £30,000 Package

Dynamic President of international fast moving IT group seeks a high powered Assistant with proven senior level experience. This is a very demanding role for a proactive person with exceptional organisational skills who can keep one step ahead of this high achiever. Dedication to hard work and flexibility to work as part of a small team essential. Proficient computer skills and car owner vital. Asian experience an advantage. Please call Elizabeth Wood on 0171 434 4512

Nerve Centre

£21k + bens
Stunning W.E. Office

Does your boss think you're the best PA he's ever had? If so, I want to hear from you now. You have a solid corporate background, 30 wpm shorthand and 50+ wpm typing and can hit the ground running with confidence use of Word, Excel and PowerPoint. You thrive under pressure, have the strength of character to manage a frantic boss and work autonomously in his absence. To test your true potential call Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512

A great package of benefits

when you work for Manpower

Secretaries

Do you have good Word Processing skills? If so, contact Manpower today. We have long and short term opportunities for fast and accurate WP operators and secretaries with good interpersonal skills. In return, we will reward you with excellent rates of pay and a benefits package that includes: holiday pay, Bank Holiday pay and a mortgage scheme.

For further information please call 0171 355 1133.

MANPOWER

Well educated, ambitious, energetic, and efficient. TEAM SECRETARIES/ADMINISTRATORS required with excellent skills and qualifications. Including: administrative/receptionist for busy, busy, young executives. Please call John at Manpower. Phone 0171 355 1133

Finance Secs x 6

£17-22K

We have several positions open for Finance Secretaries. You will have excellent opportunities for career advancement. Please call John at Manpower. Phone 0171 355 1133

Call now on 0171 355 1133

Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

Aldrich & Company

CONFIDENT SECRETARY £19 - £20,000 + BANK BENS

Confident, articulate, well presented secretary required by dynamic UK team, to co-ordinate and organise their busy days! Based by the Trading Floor, you must be used to a pressurised environment and enjoy working at a fast pace. Diaries, meetings, client entertainment etc for a young team of three. Call Sarah Turnbull.

CITY RECRUITMENT Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

Aldrich & Company

TRADING FLOOR - PA + TO £24,000 + BENS

This is a real right hand role supporting the charismatic Senior Director for a leading Investment Bank. Lots of client liaison, admin, and project management for a polished and outgoing PA with excellent 'people' skills who likes to organise. Call Alex Gaze.

CITY RECRUITMENT Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Company

MARKETING PACKAGE £23,000+

A prestigious, well established fund management company requires 2 ambitious young secretaries to join their marketing team. If you have speedy skills with secretarial/admin experience and good PC skills, then this may be the opportunity for you. Strong communication skills are essential. Call Emily Aldrich.

CITY RECRUITMENT Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

CHARITIES EVALUATION SERVICES

Personal Assistant to Charity Director.

Central London Up to £19,463 (incl LW)

Charities Evaluation Services is a successful, expanding charity, offering training and consultancy services to the voluntary sector. Our dynamic director, Libby Cooper, is looking for a highly competent PA. This key post involves responsibility, direct contact with clients and the opportunity to make a personal contribution to the growth of Charities Evaluation Services in a friendly and energetic working atmosphere.

The postholder will provide PA and secretarial support to the Director in her relations with UK and international organisations and with Trustees, in her management of client work and in her overall management of Charities Evaluation Services.

Responsibilities also include developing and managing effective systems and procedures; administering Board meetings; administration of recruitment and personnel procedures; management of premises.

We are looking for someone who has excellent interpersonal and organisational skills and has worked very successfully in a similar role at this level; excellent wordprocessing and layout skills; good shorthand and IT skills are desirable.

For information and application form please write to: CES, 4 Coldbath Square, London, EC1R 3HL

Please enclose an A4 self-addressed envelope. Interviews: week beginning 11th August, 1997. Closing date: 9.30 am, Monday 4 August 1997. CES aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

PA/GROUP ADMINISTRATOR

c£20,000

We are currently seeking a dynamic 24-35 year old proactive PA/Group Administrator with strong communication skills to join our busy administrative team. Essential secretarial skills using W4W and Excel are essential as are good organisational skills. Duties are very varied including facilities management, negotiating with suppliers, personnel and staff supervision etc. A flexible attitude and sense of humour are essential. If you are interested in working in this young expanding, fun environment, please call Sarah on 0171 493 1385.

abbatt

Successful People for Successful Businesses

DIRECTOR'S P.A.'S. £17,000 - £25,000 pa

*PA to LT. Director EWS Fashion Co. Priv. LT. Age 25-35 £21K-23K dept or co exp exp
*Tri-lingual PA, SW7. Fluent Age 25-40 £20K-25K French/German/English & Rusty SH exp.
*Sec to 3 Dir's Large Ins Co. WC2 Pin byground Age 30-40 £19-21K
*70wpm typ exp Age 25-35 £15-17K
*Young PA, Media Co. Knightsbridge. Ideally prof exp & MScOffice

For further information please call Wendy or Rachel 10 Bedford Street, London WC2 SHE

0171 420 8008 Fax: 0171 420 8044

PERSONAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED

TO £14,000 pa

We are a small, well-established public relations consultancy based in Holland Park, specialising in the promotion of contemporary arts and architecture. We need a personal assistant to answer the phone, and deal with all aspects of the office organisation. Excellent word-processing skills essential (Apple Mac system). The vacancy might suit an older applicant returning work, or someone on at least their second job.

Write stating current salary, enclosing full cv and two references to:

Bolton & Quinn Ltd 8 Pottery Lane, London W11 4LZ Fax: 0171 221 8100.

TEAM PLAYERS

WEST END AND CITY

King Sturge & Co is a successful, medium sized firm of Chartered Surveyors. We are seeking bright, motivated and computer literate secretarial and support staff to join expanding areas of our business:

Investment Partners Secretary - West End Office
Senior Secretary - Fleet - West End Office
Receptionist/Secretary - City Office

Ideally you will have a good knowledge of MS W4W 6.0 and W.P.5.1 and Audio Typing skills of 60 wpm.

We offer excellent income training, attractive salary packages, and a professional and friendly work environment. Apply to Joanne Gregory, 7 Bedford Place, London W1N 5AB

PA TO EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Victoria based Public Relations agency with international clientele seeks competent, personable PA, with excellent, fast secretarial skills and knowledge of Apple Mac. Applicants should have good organisational skills, a sense of humour and ability to work under pressure. Experience in Government affairs an advantage. Salary £16-18K.

Please send your CV to Sally Peters, Bate Orr & Associates Ltd, 34 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0RE or Fax 0171 838 6714

(Only successful applicants will be contacted - no agencies).

CAROLINE CHARLES

LONDON

Interested in people, fashion, beautiful fabrics and well cut clothes? If you would like to consider a career in fashion sales, please apply in writing enclosing your CV to Caroline Charles, Caroline Charles 170 New Bond St, London W1Y 9PB

Recruitment

Second Jobber £15,000

Flourishing, small professional company in the City seeks a confident, cheerful person to provide typing and general administrative support. Lots of involvement, a super opportunity for right person, plus training given.

Tel: 0171 588 3053 Fax: 0171 588 3066 MITCHELL YOUNG ASSOCIATES Executive Secretarial Recruitment

Urgent, experienced and flexible secretary required to join dynamic, multi-national PR agency specialising in food. A knowledge of Microsoft 95 and PowerPoint would be beneficial.

Competitive salary, BUPA, pension scheme and discretionary bonuses are part of the package. Please post your cv to Karen Newman, Nexus Public Relations, Glen House, 125 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3BP. Replies will be sent only to applicants invited for interview.

SECRETARY/PA - NR HEATHROW.

As a fast expanding international group serving the oil & Gas, Petrochemical and engineering industries, we are looking for a PA to join our team and provide support to our Managing Director. Duties include the full range of secretarial services and the coordination of the Group travel arrangements. Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role. A knowledge of Microsoft 95 and PowerPoint would be beneficial. Salary according to exp and exp. If you are interested, please forward your CV to Business Travel, Business Manager, Centrom Ltd, Centrom House, 363 Bath Road, Longford, West Midlands, LE10 0PL Fax: 01753 607194

Office Manager

c£22,000

Dynamic and progressive publishing company seeks a confident and well-organised individual for a high profile role. A flexible Office Manager with solid office management experience and the ability to cope efficiently and effectively under pressure is required. This position offers an excellent salary and a lively working environment.

REED For Executive Secretarial positions in the West End, Tel: 0181 2242820

For over 1,000 jobs, visit <http://www.reed.co.uk>

Secretary To FD

£20,000

Duty free retailer seeks a French speaking secretary to support the Financial Director and finance team within their friendly Brentford office. Working in a varied role, the post will involve typing correspondence in French/English and managing the phones, fax and stationery. W4W, Excel and PowerPoint essential for this position. Exceptional benefits.

REED For Executive Secretarial positions in the West End, Tel: 0181 2242820

For over 1,000 jobs, visit <http://www.reed.co.uk>

Shorthand PA

£20,000

A large, expanding metal trading company is seeking a level headed Personal Assistant for an untraditional role supporting two extremely busy traders. Candidates can expect an ever-changing workload involving typing, dealing with correspondence, taking shorthand and organising travel/meetings. W4W and 70-80wpm shorthand essential. Excel or PowerPoint an advantage.

REED For Executive Secretarial positions in the City, Tel: 0171 6381666

For over 1,000 jobs, visit <http://www.reed.co.uk>

CHAIRMAN - TV - 24,000

The Chairman of a major television company needs the support of 2 mature PAs. He demands an excellent command of the English Language, and a keen eye for detail. You will be at the heart of a major business enterprise within a vibrant industry. ab.100 typing. 70 W4W.

0171 629 9323 DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

City Recruitment Firm

work with the Managing Director and the Marketing Director. Should be a graduate with at least two European languages, preferably with experience in a corporate finance or securities environment. An interest in advancement to research/consultant within the firm will be preferred.

Apply in confidence to: Nick Pickering, Rochester Partnership Ltd, 7 St. Helen's Place, London, EC3A 6AU.

Email: npickering@rochester.demon.co.uk. Tel: 0171 256 9000. Fax: 0171 256 9111.

TO £23,000 SENIOR TEAM SECRETARY W1 BLUE CHIP CO

Superb opening for a top Team Secretary with fast copy and skills to work for an International Blue Chip Co. Duties will include general office management, meeting minutes and administration support for Investment Managers. W4W and a good knowledge of PowerPoint an essential. Excellent benefits, together with the ability to work on your own initiative. You should possess an excellent, friendly telephone manner and a confident outlook for this exciting role. Please call Elaine or fax CV to:

Rainbow Recruitment 12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DY Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

£21,000 + 5 WEEK HOLS! SH/PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MD PUBLISHING HOUSE

This very exciting role calls for an intelligent, enthusiastic, energetic PA. 24+ hrs per week experience working at senior level in a publishing house. High level of responsibility and autonomy. High salary and excellent benefits. You will be responsible for all administrative and clerical duties, including travel arrangements, meeting minutes and bookkeeping. Some evenings work plus usual secretarial responsibilities. W4W plus pension scheme. For more information, please call or fax to:

Rainbow Recruitment 12 South Molton Street, London, W1Y 1DY Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE £20,000 plus, + Exc. bens.

Fluent written and spoken Italian are essential attributes as well as exc. skills, including shorthand. You will be in charge of three secretaries and look after the Chief Executive and his Deputy who are both a pleasure to work for.

0171 734 4444

CENTRE POINT GROUP

Banking and Secretarial Recruitment Specialists

HR CO-ORDINATOR

Prestigious International Bank is seeking a co-ordinator with the charisma to help build and lead a recruitment team through a period of substantial growth. This proactive team needs to be complemented with a capable professional who has excellent communication skills, self confidence and the diplomacy to liaise effectively with Business Managers and Suppliers. A positive decisive approach, efficient fast response to meeting managers requirements and p.e. literacy is essential. This challenging role would involve recruiting quality temporary candidates into contract and temporary positions. Preference will be given to candidates with previous recruitment experience.

For further details please call Kathy Liddle Tel: 0171 588 8012/8013 Fax: 0171 588 8010 16 St Helen's Place, London EC3A 6DP

Fascinating Finance c£23000

Our delightful clients, City financiers, are looking to recruit a senior secretary for 2 charming directors. Your good Word, Excel and PowerPoint skills will enable you to become involved with all aspects of the department from initiation to final presentation. If you thrive on being busy and enjoy the camaraderie of a medium sized company, please call us now. Ref 94

Fluent German c£26000

Euro Investment Bank are recruiting a senior PA for their Global Marketing area. If you have good Word, Excel and PowerPoint and preferably shorthand, have good experience in a high pressure environment and are excited by challenge, please call. Ref 149

For further details call Aileen Carr Tel: 0171 588 8998 Fax: 0171 588 8910 16 St Helen's Place, London EC3A 6DP

JOSEPH ROWE

secretarial recruitment consultants

Head Office Assistant

c£13,000 + bens City

Enthusiastic and determined junior is required to work within this prestigious insurance company. Shall be providing assistance to the Director of Operations within the Facilities Management Dept. Must have at least 1 years experience within an office environment, have a good standard of education coupled with accurate typing skills. Duties shall include working as part of a team producing presentations, typing of correspondence, general administration and covering for relief on reception. If you possess excellent communication and organisational skills and are looking to work in a team environment then get in contact now.

Joseph Rowe Associates Ltd Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

EXECUTIVE PA

£25,000 p.a.

An excellent position has arisen for a top calibre executive PA to work for a Managing Director of a top tier investment company. The successful candidate will be a proactive, energetic and experienced professional with a proven track record in a similar role. The role will involve the management of a team of staff and the coordination of all sales and marketing activities. The successful candidate will be a proactive, energetic and experienced professional with a proven track record in a similar role.

For further details please call Aileen Carr Tel: 0171 588 8998 Fax: 0171 588 8910 16 St Helen's Place, London EC3A 6DP

CREATIVE CO

£16k + bens

Interesting role for high calibre candidate with a progressive, fun consultancy. Good typing, Excel, PowerPoint, + W4Ws.

TEL: 0171 499 6566 Fax: 0171 499 6567 GROSVENOR BUREAU

PUBLISHING

c£15K

Discretion, polish and initiative? Wonderful opp for young sec to work at Director level. Good typing + 70+sh. Might suit confident college leaver.

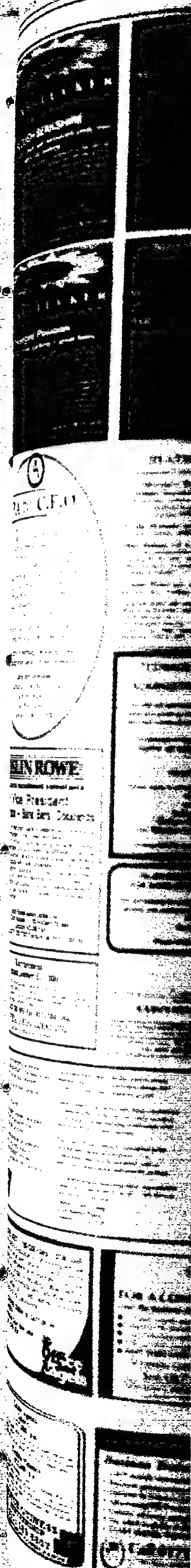
TEL: 0171 499 6566 Fax: 0171 499 6567 GROSVENOR BUREAU

CREATIVE CO

£16k + bens

Interesting role for high calibre candidate with a progressive, fun consultancy. Good typing, Excel, PowerPoint, + W4Ws.

TEL: 0171 499 6566 Fax: 0171 499 6567 GROSVENOR BUREAU



July 16 1997

CREME DE LA CREME

MAINE-TUCKER
RICHMOND CONSULTANTS
SLOUGH BERKSHIRE
Up to £22,000 + gym, sub restaurant, pens med, bens, car parking.
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RICHMOND CONSULTANTS
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£16,000 - 25 days hols, pens, med
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Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Fax: 0171 734 7342

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RICHMOND CONSULTANTS
RICHMOND
Sales & Marketing Administrator
£16,000 - 25 days hols, pens, med
8-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6JP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Fax: 0171 734 7342

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£30,000 + pens, health insur, prp, life insur, gym membership
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£16,500 + free parking + great bens
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RICHMOND CONSULTANTS
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£18,000 + good package
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£20,000 + mod + bonus + prp
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Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Fax: 0171 734 7342

P.A. TO C.E.O.
The young CEO of this privately owned Hotel Group requires an energetic PA with a naturally sunny disposition and a good telephone manner to be based at their busy Mayfair Head Office. The ability to manage a busy and varied workload, to think ahead and work under pressure are vital. You will arrange travel, meetings and handle the diary as well as a considerable amount of personal and charitable work. A committed, precise and organised approach is essential. Skills 100/60.
Excellent salary and benefits available depending on relevant experience.
Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV, detailing your salary expectations to:
Doreen Donohoe
ATHENAEUM HOTEL & APARTMENTS
116 PICCADILLY
LONDON W1V 0BJ
0171 828 2727

HEATHROW
Management Consultancy Requires:
Director's PA Office Manager
Senior Secretaries
Self motivated, enthusiastic, organised and friendly team players required for demanding office environment.
Language skills an advantage for all positions.
PA and secretaries must demonstrate proven operational skills, computer literacy, ability to generate correspondence.
Office Manager will be required to ensure smooth running and day to day administration of the office and availability of services required by the staff, including their last working management. Office currently accommodates 35 staff but support a further 60 working externally.
Proposed Writer must demonstrate ability to write consultancy proposals from briefings provided by senior managers.
Excellent terms and conditions
Written applications enclosing a full CV, and salary details, should be sent to:
The Managing Director, Vector Management Limited, Stratford House, Great Main Lane, London Heathrow Airport, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0PZ.

Music Radio
PA to Chief Executive
One of the country's most successful and rapidly growing commercial radio companies wishes to appoint a PA to work for their Chief Executive. The position requires someone with 3-5 years experience of working at Director level, the ideal candidate will have excellent organisational and administrative skills, a good sense of humour, a methodical approach and the ability to prioritise workloads juggling several tasks at once. Good typing, audio & Word for Windows essential. Shortlisted, PowerPoint and Excel all useful. £20,000, 5 weeks hols, subsidised restaurant. Call Jo Tennant.
Susan Doughty Recruitment
38A Curzon Street London W1Y 7TF
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7923

Partner's PA
to £20,000 + generous bonus
Marvellous opportunity to work on a one-to-one basis for an Associate Partner with this friendly, fun, young team from Green Park. He wants you to assist in the successful management of recruitment assignments by assuming accountability for all administration and support activities including regular contact with clients/candidates, liaison with advertising agency to assist with advertisements and preparation of candidate profiles. Word for Windows and preferably PowerPoint. Call Carin Rowlands.
Susan Doughty Recruitment
38A Curzon Street London W1Y 7TF
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7923

MAINE-TUCKER
RICHMOND CONSULTANTS
No experience necessary!
FLUENT FRENCH
PA to MD with amazing prospects up to £17,000 + great bonus
8-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6JP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Fax: 0171 734 7342

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants
PA to Vice President
£20,000 + Bank Bens - Docklands
This prestigious Merchant Bank is seeking an exceptional PA to Vice President in the Investment Banking Division. This is a high-profile position requiring excellent skills, superb presentation and a professional attitude. Previous experience in a similar role within a Bank is essential where the ideal candidate will have undertaken all PA duties including arranging corporate functions, extensive diary management and handling responsibility for occasional personal matters. Candidates must be proactive, able to prioritise and have excellent organisational skills to ensure an interview.
Joanne Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

TEENAGE CANCER TRUST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
To offer full administrative support to the team at this busy and growing charity. The post requires someone who can communicate effectively and work well under pressure.
Knowledge of Microsoft Office and Windows 95 together with word processing to RSA level 2 is essential.
Salary £12,000 per annum
Please apply in writing for an application form and job description to:
Mrs Jan Wright
Teenage Cancer Trust
Vikings House, Kirkham Place
54a Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0PZ
Closing date for applications Friday 25 July 1997

HOBSTONES
OFFICE MANAGER
£23 - 28,000 AAE
City based marketing office of a unique American stockmarket are recruiting for a smart, confident and assertive individual with a mature approach to be responsible for the efficient day-to-day running of an office of 15.
You should be experienced in all aspects of office management, including buildings and insurance, purchasing, and recruitment and management of staff and benefits. A good level of competence with figures is required, together with a working knowledge of budgeting and double entry bookkeeping, preferably computerised.
If you would like to discuss the role further please call NICKY GUNN on
0171 550 7000

HOBSTONES
SALES ASSISTANTS
£18-20,000 + BANKING BENS
3 Exciting positions (1 requiring fluent Italian) working within leading UK investment Banks providing comprehensive admin and sales support within Equities. Assisting either the UK or European Sales Desks the positions involve being the local point for traders and brokers by organising their global trips, expenses, presentations and trade analysis. You should be adaptable and thrive under pressure as there are constant interruptions, and the need for very quick reactions. These are young teams who work hard and play hard and they need people who can keep up with the fast pace. Ideally a graduate, preferably with some Banking exposure you should be confident, energetic, and prepared to work long hours in the very challenging and rewarding position. 40 hour typing and windows experience essential. If you think you may have what it takes...
please call NICKY GUNN
0171 550 7000

HOBSTONES
EXECUTIVE PA
TO CHAIRMAN/CEO:
£25,000 + BANKING BENS
We currently have two Senior PA positions which will offer you a fantastic salary and benefits as well as involvement and responsibility. This amazing career opportunity will allow you to use your first class secretarial skills, (PowerPoint, Excel, Powerpoint), professionally receive and greet VIPs, arrange corporate hospitality as well as some personal work. You should have experience in a senior PA role preferably in a banking environment, excellent typing, (showing an advantage) and a desire to work in a prestigious company at the most senior level. To discuss this role further...
please call HELENA today for an immediate interview
0171 550 7000

Recruitment
Second Jobber £15,000
Flourishing, small professional company in the City needs a confident, cheerful person to provide typing and general administrative support. Lots of experience, a super opportunity for right person, this role is yours.
Tel: 0171 588 3055 Fax: 0171 588 3066
MITCHELL YOUNG ASSOCIATES
Executive Secretarial Recruitment

COBY PHILIPS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
£20k
A leading financial and consulting firm is seeking a highly professional and motivated Executive Secretary to support the Managing Director. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar role, excellent organisational and administrative skills, and the ability to handle a high volume of correspondence. Salary £20,000 per annum, 5 weeks holiday, and a comprehensive benefits package. Please apply in writing to: Coby Philips, 100 Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JL. Tel: 0171 387 4116. Fax: 0171 387 4556.

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£12k - £14k + bonus - W1
GORDON-YATES
WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4469
CITY Tel: 0171 283 4264 Fax: 0171 283 4264

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£10,000 and First Lunch
GORDON-YATES
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CITY Tel: 0171 283 4264 Fax: 0171 283 4264

INTERNATIONAL drinks company
£18k + benefits
West London
GORDON-YATES
WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4469
CITY Tel: 0171 283 4264 Fax: 0171 283 4264

The Centre Point Group meets the demands of the length and breadth of the building and finance industry for top quality personnel.
We pride ourselves in providing tomorrow's solutions today.
The Secret of our Success:
The highest calibre of personnel, the highest range of quality services and the most professional client relationship.
To continue the success and our subsequent expansion we are currently recruiting experienced Recruitment Consultants of graduate with at least one year's commercial experience.
Interested individuals should possess strong interpersonal skills, commitment energy and vision to secure future business growth.
Discretion, flexibility and strong commercial awareness together with a proven track record of developing a sound working relationship with people at all levels are essential.
The Centre Point Group is committed to the training and career development of its Consultants and will be rewarded with an attractive remuneration and benefits package.
For further details regarding these opportunities please call Helen Roberts on 0171 588 8014 or alternatively send your CV to:
Centre Point Group,
14 Blomfield Place,
London, EC2A 4DP

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We currently have many top temp assignments outstanding including:
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■ Options in PR, Journalism and Commercial Languages
■ Careers Advisory and Placement Service
■ 23% tax relief available
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Tel: 0171 373 3852
LONDON'S PREMIER BUSINESS COLLEGE
A member of The Corporate Services Group plc

Anderson's
RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY
Anderson's is a dynamic specialist recruitment consultancy with offices in the City of London and Frankfurt.
Following an internal promotion we have an opportunity for a skilled young Receptionist/Secretary to join our London office.
Our ideal candidate will be well educated (A' levels or graduate) with a lively yet diplomatic personality, good telephone manner and superb PC skills (MS Office). Fluency in German and/or other European language would be helpful although not essential.
Please contact Ken Anderson or Brian Gough
Tel: 0171-466 0666 Fax: 0171-466 0667

OPERA & BALLET - ENCORE!
Our client, The Royal Opera House, is looking for a PA/Secretary with an interest in The Arts for their friendly and busy Finance Department. Reporting to the newly-appointed Financial Director, you will be a meticulous organiser with the maturity to cope with people on all levels and the relevant experience to provide high quality secretarial and admin support. Excellent WP skills on WAW, knowledge of Excel and audio or shorthand preferred. £18,000.
Please fax CV's to Martine Duryzings.
47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 0171-493 8234
Fax: 0171-493 7161
JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT - £10k-£20k + Bens
Several positions are available for fast thinking people educated to degree level, background & 6 months experience in a HR/personnel environment. You'll be assisting the manager in recruiting office staff & producing reports & contracts using MSOffice. Great career potential for a fast learner including sponsorship for IPD qualifications.
Call LORRAINE, SARAH or CAITLIN on 0171 6080011.
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FOR A CONFIDENT START
Gain the business skills required for success
■ 3, 6 and 9 month Secretarial Courses
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■ Careers Advisory and Placement Service
■ 23% tax relief available
■ NEXT START DATE 22 SEPTEMBER 1997
4 Wetherby Gardens, London SW5 0JN
Tel: 0171 373 3852
LONDON'S PREMIER BUSINESS COLLEGE
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IT & Management Training
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FROM AS LITTLE AS £59 PER PERSON
CALL US FOR DETAILS (01865) 798040

JOSEPH ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants
PA Japanese
c. £20,000 + bank bens City
The newly appointed general manager of the London office of a prestigious Japanese bank has an urgent requirement for a polished and efficient PA. The successful candidate will have excellent English, written and spoken Japanese, knowledge of Japanese business procedures. You will be responsible for arranging corporate functions for large numbers of clients, day management and organising business trips. The General Manager will also rely on you to collect relevant press cuttings and be up to date on current affairs. Good typing skills MS Office and the discretion and professionalism to work at senior levels are essential. A degree of flexibility regarding hours will also be necessary at times.
Joanne Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

CAREERS
to £30,000
50K - IMPRESSIVE PA - Well known CEO needs PA who thrives on organising, liaison at highest level.
30K - DIPLOMATIC - MD with international connections wants PA with top director level exp. 100 sh.
25K - TATLER READER - Polished, socially confident PA for high profile, titled Boss. Lots of organising very busy personal life. 40h.
16K - MEDIA DREAM - Organised, fast, hard-working Sec for top Co.
TIP TOP TEMPS - to £12 p/h

Estate Agents
Calore!
£17,000 p.a.
Time of our agents in the world of estate agents no longer has a perfect PA! You will be employed 20+ with good salary and a "one-of-a-kind" house, a "one-of-a-kind" house, a "one-of-a-kind" house.
Flexible Finance
£22,000 p.a.
Lots of scope for estate PA, with 20+ years' experience in the young, busy Finance Partner of leading City Co. You'll need to be highly organised and able to cope with correspondence, meetings etc. You'll need to be confident, and challenging, will bring out your best!
JOYCE GUINNESS
PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8802
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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Business Training at its Best
● 3/6/9 month secretarial skills courses
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● Options in commercial languages
● Advertising/PR/Finance
● Careers advisory and placement service
● Tax relief available @ 23%
● START DATES: September, January, April, July
Call 0171 581 0024
4 CORNWALL GARDENS, LONDON SW7 4AT
A member of The Corporate Services Group plc

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY
We are a surveying company based in W1 and require a bright, accurate and efficient secretary with WAW knowledge to work with a team of 3 surveyors.
Please send CV to:
Rebecca Wilson, Fletcher King,
Stratton House, Stratton Street,
LONDON W1X 5PE.
(Strictly no agencies)

JOSEPH ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants
PA Japanese
c. £20,000 + bank bens City
The newly appointed general manager of the London office of a prestigious Japanese bank has an urgent requirement for a polished and efficient PA. The successful candidate will have excellent English, written and spoken Japanese, knowledge of Japanese business procedures. You will be responsible for arranging corporate functions for large numbers of clients, day management and organising business trips. The General Manager will also rely on you to collect relevant press cuttings and be up to date on current affairs. Good typing skills MS Office and the discretion and professionalism to work at senior levels are essential. A degree of flexibility regarding hours will also be necessary at times.
Joanne Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES
0171-468 0400
THE FREEDOM BREWING COMPANY,
In Fulham, requires enthusiastic, friendly Receptionist/Secretary for their young booming business. Bright telephone manner and windows 95/word. Salary £12-14K.
Write with full CV to the MD, The Freedom Brewing Company, The Coachworks, 80, Portland Green Lane, Fulham, SW6 4HL or fax 0171 731 1218

CREME DE LA CREME

COLLEGE LEAVERS
OR 2ND JOBBERS

When it comes to offering career advice from post GCSE students to graduates we are old hands at dealing with everyone. Our clients include advertising agencies, finance, publishing and fashion companies. Why not make an appointment to discuss our current vacancies?

Please telephone 0171 628 9529

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONNEL OFFICER
£25,000

A varied role combining recruitment, training and personnel administration. Experience with inland revenue, payroll preparation and disciplinary procedures is preferred. Ideally suit candidates who are part or fully qualified with IPD.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529

Elizabeth Hunt
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LEGAL IN BANKING
£22,000

You do not need legal experience in assisting this new compliance executive. A one to one position with total involvement and scope to develop the role. Rusty shorthand, 60wpm typing. Windows package.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SNR ADMINISTRATOR
£23,000 + Package

Utilise your supervisory skills gained within an administrative based environment in training development of this global management consultancy. You will control all the financial accounts, develop systems and course material.

MS Office 95.
Please telephone 0171 485 2321

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITY TEMPS

Secretaries and Receptionists

- Top hourly rates, loyalty bonus and paid bank holidays.
- Immediate short and long term assignments, matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information please telephone Katrina, Alan, Dawn & Harriet on 0171 638 9991.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

INVESTMENT
BANKING

£27,000 Package

Working at Director level within this dynamic Financial Institution. Excellent organisational skills and a pro-active approach are required to manage diaries, coordinate travel, meetings and be a focal point for all enquiries to the Department. Banking experience essential.

Please contact Margaret Sorehan.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd
Financial Recruitment Consultants
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

TRADING FLOOR
ROLES x 2

To £23,000 Packages

Organise extensive travel plans, compose your own correspondence, liaise with clients.... These are just a few of the duties involved in these demanding secretarial roles. The positions are to work the Capital Markets area of a leading Bank and will require candidates with banking experience.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd
Financial Recruitment Consultants
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

PARIS OPPORTUNITIES!

ADMINISTRATOR with FRENCH £25,000 - £30,000 + Bens

SECRETARY with FRENCH £20,000 + Bens

A leading International Broker is looking for an Administrator and a Secretary/PA to work within their dynamic and friendly Paris office. Excellent opportunities to use your language skills. Fluent FRENCH + ENGLISH. The roles require experienced administrators and secretaries from a financial background, aged 24-35 with excellent communications skills.

Please contact Julie Macdonald.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd
Financial Recruitment Consultants
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

TEMPORARY
SECRETARIES IN BANKING

Jonathan Wren is the recommended supplier to the City Personnel Group which has a membership of over 300 Banks in London.

We constantly need experienced Secretaries & DTP Operators aged 20-35 years with a financial background or recent Graduates for a variety of assignments in the City, West End and Docklands. Temping as a Secretary or DTP Operator in Banking offers excellent rates up to £12.50 per hour + overtime.

MS Office (Word, Excel & PowerPoint) essential!

Please contact Denise Barry.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd
Financial Recruitment Consultants
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

ENTREPRENEUR to £25,000

The charming, approachable MD of this highly successful Co with fascinating business interests is looking for a super-efficient, well presented, socially confident PA. You must be bright, flexible, reliable and enjoy a demanding/ varied role.

DREAMY FIRST JOB 14K

Famous Creative Co is looking for a marketing Asst. Must be smiling, clever, flexible, with good eye skills.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES
0171-468 0400

HODGE

PA to GROUP MD
£20-£23,000 + Bens West End

Superb opportunity for a proactive PA/Secretary with senior level experience to join a renowned international PR Consultancy. In this new 1:1 role assisting the Group Managing Director, you will be expected to think ahead and handle extensive liaison with the company's Senior Executives. Confidence in taking minutes of meetings is essential. 60 wpm typing, W4W and presentation experience (Powerpoint used). Short hand desirable. Call our West End Office.

TEL: 0171 628 8863 • FAX: 0171 408 0861

HODGE

PA - EXECUTIVE SEARCH
TO £20,000 + PRP West End

Enjoy a front line role assisting a charming partner within this prestigious company who are a top name in Executive Search. Approximately a 50/50 secretarial split, there will be plenty of telephone contact with clients, confirming meetings, following up interviews and sending out 'briefs'. A smart appearance and confident telephone manner is vital for this role. Audio/PAW skills needed, training offered on database and Internet.

Call our West End office.

TEL: 0171 628 8863 • FAX: 0171 408 0861

HODGE

TEMPORARIES

We now have offices in both the City and West End and can offer exciting and varied temporary assignments to all levels of secretarial Administrative and Reception staff.

CITY: 0171 332 0995
WEST END: 0171 629 8863

HODGE

Investment Banking
City
£16,000 + Bens

Reporting to a Director, this position will suit 2nd jobbers seeking the next step forward. Our client, a traditional well-known Bank seeks a secretary who enjoys typing, has excellent Word for Windows experience and can demonstrate a confident, friendly manner. Working within a team environment the role will be busy and varied. This position holds good career prospects for a dedicated, enthusiastic secretary. Call our City office.

TEL: 0171 332 0995 • FAX: 0171 332 0996

HODGE

Tip Top Receptionist
£18,000 + Bens City

This Import/Export company requires a professional, who is a dedicated Receptionist to be in a front-line role within a team of four. Responsibilities will include answering a busy switchboard, meeting and greeting clients, dealing with extensive hospitality arrangements and assisting secretaries with typing. The ability to prioritise is essential, as is a calm nature. Typing skills must be min 40 wpm. MS Word for Windows experience desirable. Call our City Office.

TEL: 0171 332 0995 • FAX: 0171 332 0996

LEGAL SECRETARIAL OPPORTUNITIES
TEMP TEMP TO PERM
£22,000pa

Our City based clients need experienced legal secretaries with 55wpm, strong audio and Windows skills. If you have at least 1 year's legal experience and are keen to work on either a long or short term basis to discuss the opportunities we currently have on offer, please call Rachel Huggins/Hazel Nettle on 0171 408 0424. E-mail: info@hate.co.uk

Web: <http://www.hate.co.uk>

MOSCOW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Excellent Banking Package

Our client, a leading American Finance House, requires an office administrator to set up and run the London office of its Moscow office. You will be responsible for the space planning, security and compliance procedures together with the recruitment and development of support staff and their editorial review.

Your confidence with computers will ensure the smooth running of IT systems in Moscow, headed up by the European systems group. Financially you will be in a leading position, managing and managing support.

Your leadership skills will enable you to recruit and build a highly motivated support team, laying down a strong 'can do' service ethos. Experience in this expanding world class organisation. Fluency in English / Russian (written / spoken) is essential (graduate preferred).

Please contact Denise Barry in confidence on 0171 814 0800 or fax your CV on 0171 814 0801.

Angela Mortimer International
The multinational division of Angela Mortimer

SECRETARY / ADMINISTRATOR

A bright enthusiastic person required to work in busy sales agents. Must be computer literate with a working knowledge of Windows 95.

Application in writing enclosing C.V. to: Gregory Semmens, Sullivan Thomas 28 Bellevue Road, London SW17 7BS

RECEPTION SELECTION

EXPERIENCE: The successful candidate will be responsible for the reception of clients, handling incoming calls, managing the office diary and ensuring the smooth running of the office. The role involves a high level of customer service and the ability to handle a fast pace environment.

REQUIREMENTS: The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role, be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and have excellent communication skills. The role is full time, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Salary: £18,000 - £20,000 per annum, depending on experience.

Location: City of London.

Application: Please send your CV and covering letter to: JFL Recruitment Consultants, 47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9BA. Tel: 0171-483 8824. Fax: 0171-483 7161.

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR BOND ST

High profile company requires an administrator to provide secretarial/admin support in the personnel department. Must have 2 years' secretarial experience, have an excellent knowledge of Access, Excel and W4W, a good telephone manner and an interest in personnel. £16,000.

Please fax CVs to: Juliette Wood
47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9BA
Tel: 0171-483 8824
Fax: 0171-483 7161

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARY TO GROUP DIRECTOR (CITY) - EXCL. BENS

Senior role reporting to the Group Director. This is the largest of the 10 offices with 50 staff world wide. The role is a 1:1 role with a high level of responsibility. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the office, including the management of the Group Director's diary, travel arrangements, correspondence and the management of the office staff. The role is full time, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

PA/SECRETARY £18,000 - West End, 10 mins to Tube

Our client is a leading international company. They are looking for a PA/Secretary to support the Managing Director. The role involves a high level of customer service and the ability to handle a fast pace environment. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role, be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and have excellent communication skills. The role is full time, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Salary: £18,000 - £20,000 per annum, depending on experience.

Location: West End, 10 mins to Tube.

Application: Please send your CV and covering letter to: JFL Recruitment Consultants, 47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9BA. Tel: 0171-483 8824. Fax: 0171-483 7161.

BOYCE

Executive Assistant

Our client is a leading international company. They are looking for an Executive Assistant to support the Managing Director. The role involves a high level of customer service and the ability to handle a fast pace environment. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role, be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and have excellent communication skills. The role is full time, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Salary: £20,000 - £22,000 per annum, depending on experience.

Location: City of London.

Application: Please send your CV and covering letter to: Boyce Recruitment, 100 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 0171-483 8824. Fax: 0171-483 7161.

EXHIBITION ORGANISING
£18,000

Great start for a young woman to assist the Head of Design with summer fairs & exhibitions. A keen eye for detail plus bags of confidence. Min 1 yrs experience, typ 50wpm & abt.

NORMA SKEMP REC:
0171 491 0707

ALBANY APPOINTMENTS PA to HR DIRECTOR

To 2000 - 2005 + Bens. Totaly committed & capable PA sought by Head of HR of dynamic international consultancy. Director level exp. 20+ yrs. 60wpm typing. 28 Bellevue Road, London SW17 7BS. Tel: 0171 483 8824. Fax: 0171 483 7161.

TOP ART GALLERY
£12 - 14,000

An artistic position for an outgoing & socially aware young PA in top public gallery. Assisting with events you will have an excellent feel for the art world. The role involves a high level of customer service and the ability to handle a fast pace environment. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role, be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and have excellent communication skills. The role is full time, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Salary: £12,000 - £14,000 per annum, depending on experience.

Location: City of London.

Application: Please send your CV and covering letter to: JFL Recruitment Consultants, 47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9BA. Tel: 0171-483 8824. Fax: 0171-483 7161.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Ideally you will speak a second language when sitting at a busy Executive Assistant to the Head of Investment Banking for Europe within this major city bank. The role is full time, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Salary: £23,000 + Bens + paid overtime.

0171 493 2888

BOYCE

Secretary/Admin Assistant with French to 30K package.

Are you looking to work within an international environment and demonstrate your excellent language/organisational skills. On behalf of one of Europe's most prestigious banking organisations we are looking to recruit a Level/graduate calibre individual with at least 12 months work experience, preferably within a secretarial capacity. Fluency French, ability to work as part of a team, and excellent interpersonal skills are essential.

Salary range from £18K-£25K + Bens.

TE: 0171 287 6090
Fax: 0171 494 4652

WORK OUT IN SW1
£20,000 PER ANNUM

Situated close to the City Harbour Club this is your chance to join a confident young PA with a keen eye for detail and a desire to progress in a dynamic & lively environment.

NORMA SKEMP REC:
0171 491 0707

PORTUGUESE

Bilingual PA/Secretary for Director of Major Trading Co. Super role offering lots of involvement and variety, so ability to use initiative & to work independently together with several staff are the prerequisites.

Language: Portuguese.
0171 287 6090

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ETHIOPIAN and

Financial rewards to directly recruit and place candidates for a variety of roles. The role involves a high level of customer service and the ability to handle a fast pace environment. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role, be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and have excellent communication skills. The role is full time, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Salary: £18,000 - £20,000 per annum, depending on experience.

Location: City of London.

Application: Please send your CV and covering letter to: JFL Recruitment Consultants, 47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9BA. Tel: 0171-483 8824. Fax: 0171-483 7161.

VIENNA Marketing Secretary

Going home? Or keen to perfect your German? Great job with famous national multinational for bright Secretary (German & English) with experience, brilliant English & secretarial skills to match.

0171 493 2888

BOYCE

ITALIAN Bilingual Secretaries/Administrators.

Are you an experienced administrator/secretary with fluent Italian? We have several temporary/permanent and flexi temp opportunities for dynamic individuals with excellent language/organisational skills. On behalf of one of Europe's most prestigious banking organisations we are looking to recruit a Level/graduate calibre individual with at least 12 months work experience, preferably within a secretarial capacity. Fluency Italian, ability to work as part of a team, and excellent interpersonal skills are essential.

Salary range from £18K-£25K + Bens.

TE: 0171 287 6090
Fax: 0171 494 4652

Mature PA for Chairman £24,000

Worked close to the City Harbour Club this is your chance to join a confident young PA with a keen eye for detail and a desire to progress in a dynamic & lively environment.

NORMA SKEMP REC:
0171 491 0707

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LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

FARLEY & CO

SENIOR NEGOTIATOR

An experienced senior negotiator for long established Lettings Department in SW7, with a minimum of 2-3 years experience. Excellent salary and company car.

£171-589-1244

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

GERMAN DTP secretary

Required for prestigious company based in Germany. The role involves a high level of customer service and the ability to handle a fast pace environment. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role, be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS) and have excellent communication skills. The role is full time, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

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Salary range from £18K-£25K + Bens.

TE: 0171 287 6090
Fax: 0171 494 4652

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ITALIAN Bilingual Secretaries/Administrators.

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Salary: £18,000 - £20,000 per annum, depending on experience.

Location: City of London.

Application: Please send your CV and covering letter to: JFL Recruitment Consultants, 47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9BA. Tel: 0171-483 8824. Fax: 0171-483 7161.

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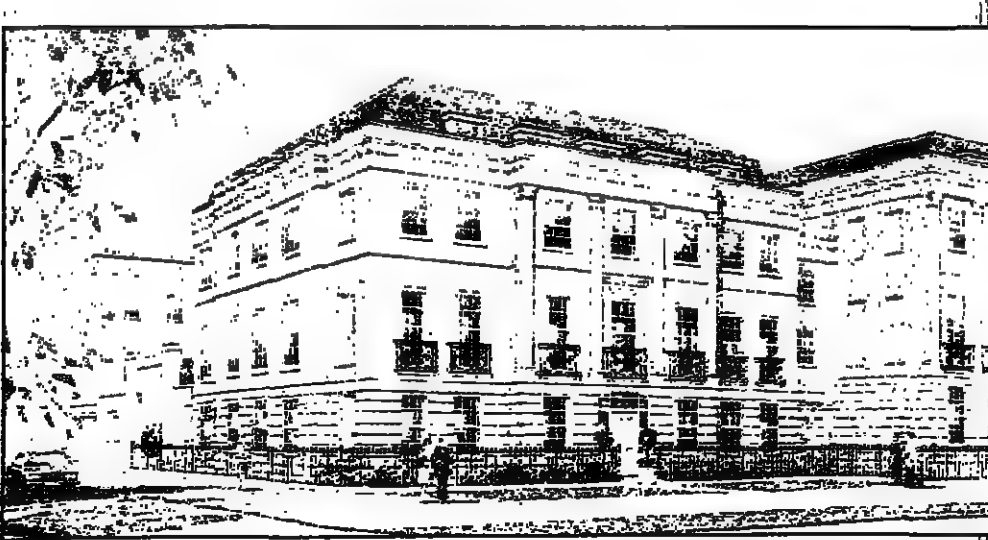
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Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, sees the most exclusive stop on the Australians' schedule

Country retreat at end of tourist trail

THE Australians go back to work today, their midsummer repose complete. If the early part of their itinerary was mistakenly and expensively cramped, the past week has offered a timely breather and they have used it beneficially. They are approaching the decisive phase of their trip ominously chipper.

Since winning the Manchester Test, the Australians have behaved more like tourists than touring cricketers. They have seen the sights of Edinburgh and played golf at Dalnabury and St Andrews. Four players attended the British Grand Prix and then, on Monday, they all did something entirely different and played a game of cricket.

It was not the game itself that was different but the venue. One thing that sets cricket apart from other sports is its infinite variety of settings. Everyone has a favourite ground but for rural splendour, manicured presentation and sheer unashamed Englishness, Wormsley takes some beating.

Many will not have heard of Wormsley and many more will not have seen it. There is a simple reason for this: it is a private wonderland. The ground, carved out of wooded hills, acts as the front lawn of J Paul Getty's country seat. Here, before an invited audience enjoying hedonism on a grand scale, the Australians played their last fixture before the serious business resumes against Glamorgan at Cardiff today.

They played it wide-eyed, spending the off-field moments clicking their cameras, spotting celebrities and gawking at the rolling Oxfordshire scenery. The sun shone and the scene was to die for. The Australians, most of whom are more beguiled by things quaintly English than they would care to admit, will cherish the day.

Three things are said regularly of Getty. One concerns his great wealth, another his reclusive nature and the third his passion for cricket. The third has been assisted by the



England's glory: J Paul Getty's private ground at Wormsley provides a stunning setting for the Australians to end their mid-tour break

first, for he has become one of the game's great benefactors, and it seems to have counteracted the second, too. On Monday, the great recluse entertained 400 guests and beamed munificently.

Lords and ladies abounded, as did mighty men of the military. Marianne Faithfull was there and just about the entire Jagger family. Mick's elderly father reminding of the day that he went for a trial with Yorkshire and thought he might be accepted until they discovered that he was born in Chelmsford.

Cricket luminaries were everywhere and Geoff Marsh,

the Australia coach, had an hour-long chinwag with his predecessor, Bob Simpson. Most of the Surrey committee seemed to be present, along with a chap named Major who is thought to be worth nominating, and Alex Tudor had barely bowled the first ball of the game before the Bedser twins were giving their views on the weak bodies and minds of modern fast bowlers. In such an apparently timeless setting, it was appropriate.

Wormsley, however, is a new ground. It might not look like it with its thatched pavilion and matching scoreboard, but the first match was staged

only five years ago. The following year, Getty's love of cricket was manifested in a different way. He liked Wisden so much, he bought the company.

He has about a dozen fixtures a year and the only uninvited spectators, other than those who find their way in via the backways of the Chilterns, are estate workers and villagers of the four local parishes. It is faintly feudal, but nobody seems to mind.

On Monday it was like Arundel without the crowds. There was a military band before play but no intrusive public address. The tempo-

rary loos behind the marquees were equipped in a way to put most hotels to shame. There was ice-cream dispensed from a bicycle, but nothing so vulgar as a hot-dog stall or a beer tent. And there was Pimm's and champagne at midday.

This, evidently, is one of the traditions of Wormsley that Dickie Bird did not repeat his gaffe of the first occasion he umpired here. Seeing the mid-day drinks invitation on the guests' programme, he had brought all the players off on the stroke of noon, expecting something fruity with a kick. Getty's staff, unskipped, pro-

duced a trayful. The traditional pace of the day is charmingly anachronistic. Play starts at 11.30am and lunch, at 1.30pm, lasts for a notional hour, usually longer. There are no overs limitations and the declaration — inevitable on such a sublime pitch — is complicated by the fact that tea is inclined to stretch out a shade, too.

No surprise, then, that the game finished drawn. It was not a joke match, however, and nor was it without some highly-distinguished cricket. This had virtually been assured on the day that Faith Hawkins, who organises the

Getty teams, received a call from "Mr G", as she calls him with deference, suggesting that, on this occasion, his XI should be competitive. He knew his Australians.

A few previously invited players were thus gently stood down on the grounds of being long in the tooth. One such has been Mike Procter, who took no offence and enjoyed the day as a guest. His replacement, Graeme Hick, was one of six Test players in a

AUSTRALIANS	
M J Slater c Killeen b Brown	10
M T G Elliott c Killeen b Whiteall	0
J Langer b Brown	36
R J Pongia c Killeen b Hollister	36
M G Bevan c Strong b Whiteall	54
M A Taylor not out	22
G S Berr not out	22
Extras (to S, to B)	12
Total (5 wickets)	267
B F Brown, P R Pongia, J H Gillespie and G D McGrath did not bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-36, 3-102, 4-167, 5-218.	
SCORING: Tudor 10-0-47-0; Brown 9-2-38-2; Hollister 5-0-36-1; Strong 8-0-58-0; Whiteall 9-1-65-2; Hick 1-0-5-0; Crowe 2-0-22-0.	

J PAUL GETTY'S XI	
R A Smith b Bevan	57
M D Crowe not out	116
G A Hick c Killeen b Bevan	25
D W Randall c Taylor b Bevan	25
M C J Nicholson not out	2
Extras (to S, to B)	9
Total (4 wickets)	237
P A Strong, D R Brown, K M Killeen, A R Marshall and A J Tudor did not bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-144, 2-180, 3-208, 4-234.	
BOWLING: McGrath 10-2-41-0; Pongia 7-3-17-0; Brown 5-0-34-0; Gillespie 5-0-35-0; Bevan 9-0-65-4.	
Umpires: H O Bird and N T Pines.	

team that also included the young bucks of the English game, Tudor and Ben Hollister.

Matthew Elliott's 95 for the Australians was somewhat lost amid the lingering lunch, but tea was long since over when Martin Crowe showed that he retired too soon with an unbeaten century. The good news for Michael Bevan, whose Test place is precarious, is that he took all four wickets to fall. The bad news is that his nine overs cost 85 runs. It hardly mattered. For once, the surroundings will linger long after the figures are forgotten.

Room at the top for Essex to fill

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

ESSEX have most to play for when the county championship programme resumes today. As Glamorgan, the leaders, entertain the Australians, Essex, who have played one game fewer, go to Northampton looking for the victory that would put them top of the table.

They will not be frightened to go there. Northamptonshire, who are not short of talented players, seem to be falling apart. They are one place off the bottom and John Emburey, who began his coaching career last year blessed by kind words and extravagant predictions (not his own), is finding life on the

other side of the ropes more difficult than he would wish. David Roberts, their 20-year-old batsman, returns to open the innings.

Middlesex are also sitting this round out, which gives Kent the chance to move above them into third place. Kent did themselves no favours at Lord's last Saturday, when, once again, their nerve failed them in a knockout final. But they are strong enough in bowling to be involved in the championship until the race is run.

Two sides who will not be involved in that race meet at Old Trafford. Lancashire's four-day cricket gets no better,

although they did beat Middlesex two weeks ago, when Peter Martin took 13 wickets in the match. Significantly, half a dozen members of the regular team missed that game for one reason or another.

Sussex gave themselves something to look forward to when they beat Lancashire at Hove last week, in the NatWest Trophy. Otherwise their season has been a catalogue of disaster. They have yet to win a championship match although Paul Jarvis, who has missed the last five games with an Achilles tendon injury, may return today.

Derbyshire, the other side yet to claim a victory, go to the lovely, tent-ringed college ground at Cheltenham where, no doubt, the Stads Exiles will be toasting the most celebrated exile of all, the late Laurie Lee. Who knows? Derbyshire, wracked by self-doubt and general dissatisfaction, might be sufficiently roused by the splendid setting to overturn a Gloucestershire team that continues to look more than the sum of its parts. David Lawrence may resume his interrupted comeback for Gloucestershire.

Mark Wagh, the captain of Oxford University, joins the Warwickshire team at Trent Bridge, in place of Nick Knight, who must again rest an injured finger. Keith Piper is also missing with a ruptured Achilles. Nottinghamshire await a late test on Mark Bowen, their leading wicket-taker.

Hove umpires wideawake

Mark Robinson's unusual dismissal at Hove on Sunday created a lively debate. With Sussex wanting one run to overhaul Gloucestershire's 141 for nine in their Axa Life League match, Robinson was stumped off a wide, the one run for the wide securing them victory.

Should Robinson have been given out, given that the "deciding" wide preceded the stumping? Yes, says Law 23, clause 4, which states that "the ball is not dead when the umpire has called no-ball or wide".

What would have happened had Robinson's been the tenth wicket to fall, rather than the ninth? Sussex would have been all out for 142 and deemed winners by one run — even though they batted second.

Young bloods

All the good news in English cricket is being made by teenagers at the moment. Hot on the heels of Ben Hollister's triumph in the Benson and Hedges Cup final, comes news that England's Under-17 team won the international youth tournament in Bermuda.

The competition is for under-19 sides from the "non-senior" major cricket playing nations" plus England, who agreed to take part provided that they were allowed to send a younger batch of players.

Captained by Robert Key, of Kent, they won five matches and tied the sixth, with Holland. They were managed by John Abrahams and coached by Geoff Arnold. Their next big assignment is the ICC Youth World Cup in South Africa early next year.



Take cover

Hampshire's move to a green-field site cannot come soon enough for the beleaguered residents around their existing ground at Northlands Road, Southampton. For years they have been bombarded by big-hitters smiting sixes out of the small ground, their car windscreens being the most common casualties.

Three days ago Graeme Hick and Tom Moody, of Worcestershire, managed to lose three balls in no time and the umpires' supply of spares was getting so low that John Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, complained bitterly when he was handed one that was soft and bore no seam. He kept mum a little later, though, once he had taken six for 16 with it in 30 balls.

Blank screen

New technology is all very well until it does not work, as the crowd at Lord's for "Ben Hollister's match" know to their cost, the electronic scoreboard on the tower side of the ground unhelpfully going blank for a period during the afternoon.

Cynics suggested that this may have had something to do

McGrath masters the Dutch attack

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

SCARBOROUGH (Holland won toss): Yorkshire beat Holland by 82 runs

THIS one-sided contest illustrated that Holland are not as well-equipped as some may imagine. Their learning process continues. Gavin Hamilton, Scotland-born and usually batting at No 8, proved it by plundering 60 from 32 balls.

More predictably, Anthony McGrath swept beyond his third Scarborough Festival fifty in four days to reach 114, with 11 fours and three sixes from 134 balls, and consign the Holland batsmen to a damage-limitation process.

They achieved this muted target, losing by a respectable margin without remotely threatening victory. Klaas Jan van Noortwijk made a half-century, as he did during the 49-run defeat by England at Peshawar in the World Cup last year.

Bas Zuiderent, 20, who scored 54 in that game, was less successful this time, five days after rejecting a six-week trial with Worcestershire, against whom he hit 99 in the NatWest Trophy last month.

Zuiderent was swiftly caught at short extra cover, leaving his World Cup cohort to wield a bold bat, score 82 from 111 balls and offer a reminder of Holland's three-wicket win in the corresponding match last summer.

Yorkshire had also been put into bat in that game. The resemblance almost ended there, although Tim de Leede,

the captain, bowled medium pace admirably once more, taking four for 53 and recovering from an over costing 21 runs. Hamilton punished him for five consecutive fours and later added the wickets of Zuiderent and Eric Gouka.

Asim Khan was run out by a direct hit by Darren Gough, a substitute fielder for Martyn Moxon, and the orange-capped Dutch fielders, who had earlier pursued everything zealously, were finally subdued in all other aspects.

Their new-ball attack had featured Eric Duffier, an off spinner, as Moxon and McGrath shared a century opening stand.

YORKSHIRE	
M D Mason c Zuiderent b Duffier	43
A McGrath bow b de Leede	114
G M Hamilton c de Leede b Stephenson	82
D Gough c Stephenson b de Leede	25
B Parker b Duffier b de Leede	25
TH J Blakey c Duffier b de Leede	7
C White b Khan	37
A C Morris not out	10
D E W Stevenson not out	18
Extras (to S, to B)	8
Total (7 wickets)	300
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-104, 2-105, 3-202, 4-261, 5-322, 6-376, 7-429.	
B Zuiderent and R D Strong.	
BOWLING: Khan 10-1-65-1; Duffier 10-0-64-1; de Leede 10-1-25-4; Stephenson 10-0-60-1; Gouka 5-0-26-2; Zuiderent 1-0-0-0.	

HOLLAND	
B Zuiderent c White b Hamilton	54
E Gouka b Stephenson	34
R van Noortwijk c Bevan b Stephenson	50
K J van Noortwijk c Bevan b Stephenson	50
B M de Leede b Stephenson	10
D Bickerb b Morris	34
G Gouka c Stephenson b Hamilton	27
TH J Blakey not out	7
E Duffier not out	2
Extras (to S, to B)	17
Total (no wicket)	33
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-24, 3-30, 4-47, 5-61, 6-201, 7-201, 8-210.	
BOWLING: Stephenson 5-0-19-2; Hamilton 10-2-24-2; Stephenson 10-2-25-2; Strong 1-0-0-0; Morris 1-0-0-1; McGrath 5-0-40-4.	

FOOTBALL

Swindon keen to make Rush signing

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IAN RUSH, the Wales striker, could end his playing career with Swindon Town in the Nationwide League first division. Rush, who has been told that he can leave Leeds United, has had discussions with Steve McMahon, the Swindon manager.

"I've spoken to Ian and he's keen to come to here," McMahon, who played alongside Rush at Liverpool, said yesterday. "The only problem is that he has a year of his contract left at Leeds and we're trying to sort out the financial side of things."

Rush scored only three goals in 42 appearances for Leeds last season and was one of five first-team players left out of the club's pre-season trip to Sweden yesterday. Brian Deane, Tomas Brolin, Carlton Palmer and Tony Dorogi were the others.

Tottenham Hotspur have completed the signing of David Ginola, the Newcastle United winger, for £2 million. "Tottenham was always my first choice," Ginola said. "The big challenge for me is to help the club into Europe this season."

Danny Murphy, 20, the Crewe Alexandra midfielder player, has joined Liverpool for £1.5 million, which could later rise to £3 million, and Kevin Phillips, 23, the Watford striker, has moved to Sunderland for an initial £325,000. Reading have signed Ray Houghton, the Ireland and former Crystal Palace midfielder player, as player-coach.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is expected to capture his eighth foreign player in three months later this week. Jerome Bonissel, a left back, was due to leave Deportivo La Coruna, of Spain, for Highbury yesterday but the deal was delayed.

Mark Hoadley, 25, the former England and Rangers forward, has become player-manager of Hull City, the third division club. He has appointed Billy Kirkwood, the former Rangers youth team coach and Dundee United manager, as his assistant. Alvin Martin, the former West Ham United defender, is the new manager of Southend United.

SAILING

Golden day dawns for Golding

GROUP 4 was heading smoothly towards the finish line in Southampton harbour last night as the first yacht home in the BT Global Challenge 30,000-mile, round-the-world race (John Goodbody writes).

Barring a last-minute disaster, the yacht was expected to finish about 2hr 45min clear of Toshiba Wave Warrior, with Concord 2hr 15min further back.

Group 4, skippered by Mike Golding, a professional sailor and former fire-fighter, was sailing parallel to the English coast in occasional drizzle and before a 15-20 knots southwesterly wind. One of the crewmembers, Alex Sizer, a Surrey student, should have a double celebration today — victory in the toughest yacht race in the world and her 23rd birthday.

On Monday, it had looked as if Wave Warrior might put pressure on Group 4, which had struggled to maintain her course and her more-accurate 24-hour run of more than 200 miles. Wave Warrior had gained 11 miles, but last night overnight when the wind dropped. At daybreak yesterday, she was 23 miles behind the leader, with Concord 22 miles further back.

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مكتبة الإصدار

CYCLING: YOUNG GERMAN TAKES CHARGE OF TOUR DE FRANCE AS RIIS STRUGGLES TO STAY IN TOUCH

Ullrich gives rivals mountain to climb

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN ANDORRA

JAN ULLRICH yesterday became the first German to win the Tour de France in 20 years to wear the yellow jersey of the leader of the Tour de France after climbing to a remarkable stage victory at the Arcalis ski resort in Andorra. At 23, he became one of the youngest riders ever to lead the Tour and finally settled any debate over the leadership of the powerful Telekom team, where his team-mate, the defending Tour champion, Bjarne Riis, again struggled to keep pace with the front of the race.

"Before the Tour, I didn't care if Bjarne or me was the leader," Ullrich said. "Our tactic was to eliminate our rivals and try to win the race. There are a lot of hard days still to come and today I just want to celebrate wearing the yellow jersey."

On the longest mountain stage of this year's Tour, the riders called a truce for the first 50 kilometres of the stage before stopping en masse at the Fabio Casartelli memorial on the climb of the Port de

d'Aspet to pay a moving tribute to the Italian former Olympic champion, who died after crashing on the descent of the mountain during the 1995 Tour.

However, on the next climb, the Col de Port, the racing resumed as the Festina team of Richard Virenque set a breakneck pace. After a frenetic plunge into the valley, a reduced field regrouped on the approach to the 45-kilometre ascent of the Port d'Envalira, with Riis and the Spanish favourite, Abraham Olano, already showing signs of fatigue. Once over the summit and with the field descending at speeds of almost 60mph towards Europe's most inaccessible tax haven, Olano and Riis were able to rejoin the front group.

Yet it was a temporary reprieve. The final steep ascent to Arcalis, which climbs about 3,000 feet in fewer than 20 kilometres, proved to be their undoing. As Cédric Vasseur, the outgoing race leader, attacked, as Riis and

Olano struggled, Vasseur's biggest problem came from another source: Ullrich picked up speed and, hunched determinedly over his bike, rode past the Frenchman and away from the rest of the field. It was a display of controlled power that only Virenque and the Italian climber, Marco Pantani, could hope to follow, but Ullrich's aerodynamic time-trialling style took him further away from his pursuers and he crossed the line for the second Tour stage win of his career with more than a minute to spare.

"I didn't tell Jan to attack," Riis said later, "but when you are riding as well as he is at the moment, you have to take advantage. It doesn't matter if it is him or me in the lead — we want to win as a team and you can't do it on your own." With the Pyrenees behind him, Ullrich is likely to keep the race lead at least until the time-trial on Friday in St Etienne — indeed, his strength against the clock may even see him increase his advantage there.

"Ullrich was great today," Virenque said, "but the race isn't even at the halfway point yet and the Alps will be very tough. That will be the real test of his leadership."

Chris Boardman, who started the stage with a bruised and sore neck after falling heavily the day before, sensibly opted to ride within his limits in an attempt to recover before the time-trial, which he has targeted for a second stage win.



Ullrich raises his arms in triumph as he wins the stage and takes the yellow jersey

RUGBY UNION

All Blacks wait for England

ENGLAND have been given the draw they probably least wanted when they were paired with New Zealand for their pool for the 1997 World Cup — assuming, that is, England come through a qualification tournament next autumn (Mark Souster writes).

As long as they do, England will then play all their pool matches at Twickenham. Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's director of rugby, said: "We knew we would have to play South Africa, New Zealand or Australia but New Zealand have to be the clear favourites for the World Cup and, at the moment, are probably 20-30 points better than any other side in the world."

In the other groups, South Africa play in Pool A at Murrayfield; France, the five nations' champions, in Pool C on their home ground and Wales, the host nation, in Pool D, kicking off their challenge in front of their own supporters.

In Pool E, Ireland are likely to meet Australia at Lansdowne Road.

The qualifying rounds will be played in November 1998, with Pool 1 in England, Pool 2 in Scotland and Ireland hosting Pool 3.

Pool A (to be held in Scotland): South Africa, Europe 2, Europe 4, Europe 5, Europe 6, Europe 7, Europe 8, Europe 9, Europe 10, Europe 11, Europe 12, Europe 13, Europe 14, Europe 15, Europe 16, Europe 17, Europe 18, Europe 19, Europe 20, Europe 21, Europe 22, Europe 23, Europe 24, Europe 25, Europe 26, Europe 27, Europe 28, Europe 29, Europe 30, Europe 31, Europe 32, Europe 33, Europe 34, Europe 35, Europe 36, Europe 37, Europe 38, Europe 39, Europe 40, Europe 41, Europe 42, Europe 43, Europe 44, Europe 45, Europe 46, Europe 47, Europe 48, Europe 49, Europe 50, Europe 51, Europe 52, Europe 53, Europe 54, Europe 55, Europe 56, Europe 57, Europe 58, Europe 59, Europe 60, Europe 61, Europe 62, Europe 63, Europe 64, Europe 65, Europe 66, Europe 67, Europe 68, Europe 69, Europe 70, Europe 71, Europe 72, Europe 73, Europe 74, Europe 75, Europe 76, Europe 77, Europe 78, Europe 79, Europe 80, Europe 81, Europe 82, Europe 83, Europe 84, Europe 85, Europe 86, Europe 87, Europe 88, Europe 89, 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Golf? Is that a dirty word in !Kung?

Sport — well, it's a funny old game. Sport is every person's holiday from rationality. We take capricious likes and dislikes to an athlete, a team, an occasion, a sport, and then we are prepared to defend our caprice to the death.

Who reads the sports pages all the way through? Not a soul. Everybody with a taste for the sporting life has a favourite sport. Most have a good few others to which they are sympathetic, and everybody has a sport or two that they simply cannot stand.

Horse racing is, perhaps, the clearest example. For most people, racing is either the game of games, or something to which they are, at best, utterly indifferent. Now, as the sporting world braces itself for the Open Championship, the annual four-day festival of golf, I am brought face-to-face with my own sporting limitations.

I am not narrow-minded about sport, but I am happy — eager — to make an exception of golf. I am happy to watch

write about, revel in many sports that are treated with utter contempt. I love gymnastics and ice skating, and I think that dressage is close to being the game of games.

I have even watched and enjoyed such obviously daft sports as rhythmic gymnastics or competitive rock-climbing. Nor do I insist on physical exertion as a defining principle of sport: I am prepared to admire the skills of top performers in snooker, or the cold nerve of the champions in darts; or the lust for conquest in the chess master.

But golf? No, the red mist descend. In certain moods I will make out a logical case for denying golf the status of a true sport but, in my heart, I know it is nothing but blind prejudice. I could write as an environmentalist, and of the obscene herbicide green of its myriad courses, the airport lounges of landscape architecture. I could claim that no activity in which men wear black watch tartan trousers is worthy of a serious person's consideration.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

But the simple truth is that golf gets right up my nose and that is the beginning and the end of the matter.

I have written on every sport in the calendar, including sailing, which I do not understand, stage-race cycling, Greco-Roman wrestling and weightlifting. In the past 12 months, I have used, accurately, (show-off!) such terms as

kovacs, piaffe and quadruple toe. But to write of birdie and bogey would stick in the port of my lap-top.

People have said to me: "Oh, go to such-and-such, watch so-and-so, and then you will understand." So I walked a while with John Daly at St Andrews. Big chap. Small ball. Whack! All around me people gasped. It was as if they were watching the Pope. It was like being told a dirty joke in the language of the !Kung Bushmen. Golf? I just don't get it.

I used to feel that way about Formula One. I used to giggle when people said things like: "My God! Mansell's smoking!" But then I met Nelson Piquet, who was charming and wicked and hilarious and cunning and fast. And I met Ayrton Senna who was, as he himself once put it, Senna.

And if I think that Formula One is a sport that has lost its way, I understand it as the most sensually involving of all sports and its summit as the dwelling-place of far men. As the Tour de France

continues to wind across France, I find a strange compulsion to watch it. I don't really get the hang of it all: but the lone breakaways and baying massed pursuits fire the imagination like a quarter-comprehended poem.

But golf? A man hits a little ball and I scoff. So what? I say, contemptuously. As if there were anything intrinsically sensible about watching men kick a bladder into a net, anything especially wise about biffing a couple of bits of wood off three little sticks.

I write about sport and my specialist subject is not 4-4-2 or forehands and backhands or reverse swing; still less is it the kovacs, piaffe and the quadruple toe. It is people in competition. The form of the competition is a secondary consideration. So I always say: but golf? No, I am sorry, but it really can't be done. All the same, to like any sport at all is to dwell in a glasshouse.

Moral: either all sports are silly, or none is. There is no room for manoeuvre between these points.

GOLF: WOODS DRAWN TO PLAY WITH LANGER AND ELKINGTON IN OPENING ROUNDS

Tiger could be late for his tea

By MEL WEBB

IN ANY professional golf tournament, and particularly in the major championships, players and spectators alike are left under no misapprehension as to who are the stars and who the extras.

In spite of half-hearted protestations to the contrary, the draw is not, strictly speaking, what it is claimed to be. It does not have the out-of-hat, straight-as-a-die, pot-luck style of an FA Cup draw, for instance. The aristocracy of the game rarely play alongside the humble tillers of soil, especially in the first two rounds, and both gentry and proletariat know it. A draw, at least in the literal sense, it ain't.

It is, rather, a gentle, harmless and totally understandable swindle: if the books are not exactly cooked, they are at

their tee-times will allow them to be finished by teatime.

Most of the great and the good, therefore, will have been reasonably happy with their start times at this 126th Open Championship. Some big names do go out in the afternoon tomorrow and, unless his father saves him some, the biggest name of the lot will probably miss the Earl Grey and the smoked salmon sandwiches. At least he will get back in the hutch in plenty of time for tiffin on Friday.

Tiger Woods leaves the first tee in his first Open as a professional at 1.05pm in the company of two other major championship winners, Steve Elkington and Bernhard Langer. Having admitted that tee-times were important, he greeted the draw with equanimity. "I've got a pretty good pairing," he said. "I'm playing with two friends of mine — they are both real nice guys and fun to talk to."

The three-ball setting forth at 8.35am will provide an intriguing study, containing as it does Colin Montgomerie and Mark McNulty, men who can put for gold, and another, Tom Watson, who, these days, cannot put for tiffin. "It's a good draw," Montgomerie said. "I don't want to be sitting round all day waiting to play, and I've got two players with me who are both capable of challenging for the title. It couldn't be better."

The earliest start given to a member of the golfing nobility, at 8.15am, goes to Greg Norman, who plays with Lee Westwood, considered by Montgomerie to be Europe's best player under 30, and Steve Stricker, of the United States. Westwood is a confident young chap who has the priceless gift of being completely underwhelmed by even the most exalted of partners.

Tom Lehman, the defending champion, plays with Miguel Angel Martin, the little Spaniard who will be competing against Lehman in the Ryder Cup in September, and Vijay Singh, of Fiji, at 1.25pm.



Faldo follows the flight of an iron shot during his practice round at Troon yesterday

TEE-OFF TIMES FOR THE OPENING TWO ROUNDS

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated
0715 and 1135: S Webster, A Calera (Aldi) D Howe
0725 and 1145: P Purcell (US), R Bostall, W Westwood (SA)
0735 and 1155: P Blackmer (US), J Spence, J McGowan (US)
0745 and 1205: N Sato (Japan), P McAnulty, B Watts (US)
0755 and 1215: J Goodson (US), S Tonnarson, J Stankovic (US)
0805 and 1225: P Lomax (Aus), C Watson, J Morgan (US)
0815 and 1235: L Westwood, S Stricker (US), G Norman (Aus)

0825 and 1245: P-J Johansson (Swe), S West (US), J Nicklaus (US)
0835 and 1255: C Montgomerie, T Watson (US), M McNulty (US)
0845 and 1305: P Russell, F Coupland (US), E Romero (Arg)
0855 and 1315: A Coltart, M Calaveras (US), J Tague (Japan)
0905 and 1325: J Woosnam, R Albarry (Aus), P Stewart (US)
0915 and 1335: M O'Meara (US), S Montgomery (US), L Lyall (US)
0925 and 1345: T Boon (Den), J Cook (US), S Armes (Ire)
0935 and 1355: J M O'Sullivan (Ire), T Kile (US), N Ozaki (Japan)
0945 and 1405: P Broadhurst, J Leonard (US), W Fife (Aus)
0955 and 1415: J Van de Velde (Pri), L Roberts (US), P Seneo (Aus)
1005 and 1425: D Love (US), S Broomley, R H Mays (Japan)
1015 and 1435: J Sear-Finch (Aus), R Clayton, B Tway (US)
1025 and 1445: K McFarlane, B Andrade (US), M Rice
1035 and 1455: A Moggie (US), P Curry, J Cook (US), P Seneo (Aus)
1045 and 1505: K Duke (US), S Broomley, J Taylor (US)
1055 and 1515: A Sandymann, G Clark, B McGowan (US)
1105 and 1525: J Remmey (US), V Phillips, D Tapping
1115 and 1535: R Karlsson (Swe), T Gogole (Slo), C Perry (Aus)
1125 and 1545: J Karanovic (US), G Gner (Slo), P Hinson
1135 and 1555: W Bladot, A Gner (Slo), H Hargrind (Slo)
1145 and 1605: S Young, G O'Dr (Aus), D Hargrind (Slo)
1155 and 1615: D Hart (US), I Gamdo (Slo), M Bradley (US)
1205 and 1625: C Strange (US), J Lorne, E El (SA)

1215 and 1635: D Edmond (Swe), J Fyfe (US), T Kondo (Japan)
1225 and 1645: D Clarke, S Jones (US), F Nohak (US)
1235 and 1655: M James, M Webb (US), C Pavin (US)
1245 and 1705: C Pavin (US), J Langer (US), M Long (US)
1255 and 1715: S Faxon (US), J Parnell (US), J Goss (Aus)
1305 and 1725: T Woods (US), B Langer (US), S Elkington (US)
1315 and 1735: P Harrington, M Brooks (US), C Perry (Aus)
1325 and 1745: M A Martin (Sri), T Lehman (US), N O'Sullivan (Ire)
1335 and 1755: P Mitchell, C Blacker (US), D Reid (Aus)
1345 and 1805: P Azinger (US), J O'Donnell (US), G Payer (US)
1355 and 1815: N Fazio, T Toller (US), N Price (US)
1405 and 1825: M A Jimenez (Sri), D Duval (US), G Turner (US)
1415 and 1835: P Hedberg (Swe), J Haas (US), Kim Joo-seok (Kor)
1425 and 1845: A Coka (Ger), P McRobert (US), S Kooksey (Aus)
1435 and 1855: R Derron (US), P Baler, R Davis (Aus)
1445 and 1905: P O'Malley (Aus), B Howard, J Payne
1455 and 1915: G Brand Jr, G Day (US), C Hinson
1505 and 1925: P Fuku (Swe), J Kelly, J Miller
1515 and 1935: M Bradley, P Torrance (US), S Durkin (US)
1525 and 1945: M Miller, G Murphy, M Marni (Sri)
1535 and 1955: L Batcher, K Erisson (US), C Clark
1545 and 1205: R Jacquelin (Pri), G Dodd (Aus), J Sear-Finch (Aus)
+ denotes amateur

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP '97

the very least lightly roasted. Thus, with the announcement of the order of play for the first two rounds of the Open Championship yesterday, there was not even a sniff of a surprise. It was ever thus and ever will be.

The players who are the chosen elite really could not care less with whom they are picked to play. They are not afraid of anybody, they know that on their day they can beat anybody, so why should they mind who is standing alongside them on the tee?

Their playing partners are matters of supreme indifference to them, but they do care about other things, the first and most important of which is what time they will be called upon to strike their first shot. By and large, they prefer that

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OUTRIGHT BETTING

5/1 T. Woods
9/1 C. Montgomerie
10/1 E. Els
12/1 G. Norman
12/1 T. Lehman
16/1 N. Faldo
20/1 N. Price
28/1 J-M. Olazabal
33/1 B. Faxon
33/1 F. Nobilo
33/1 I. Woosnam
33/1 L. Westwood
40/1 M. O'Meara
40/1 B. Langer

TOP BRITISH ISLES PLAYER

9/4 C. Montgomerie
7/2 L. Faldo
8/1 L. Westwood
8/1 I. Woosnam
12/1 D. Clarke
25/1 P. Broadhurst
25/1 P. Harrington
25/1 S. Torrance
33/1 M. James
33/1 P. McGinley
33/1 R. McFarlane
40/1 G. Brand Jr
40/1 A. Coltart
40/1 R. McFarlane

TOP UNITED STATES PLAYER

5/2 T. Woods
11/2 T. Lehman
16/1 B. Faxon
16/1 M. O'Meara
18/1 D. Love
20/1 J. Furyk
20/1 J. Leonard
22/1 F. Couples
22/1 P. Mickelson
22/1 R. Stewart
25/1 L. Janzen
33/1 J. Cook
33/1 D. Duval
33/1 S. Jones

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Painful path to fulfilment

The Day That Changed My Life
BBC2, 7.30pm

Being stabbed 35 times by a paranoid schizophrenic would change anybody's life, though for Julie Chimes the long-term effect was as much spiritual as emotional or physical. At the time of the attack, in March 1986, she had a high-powered job in advertising which gave her a superficially glamorous lifestyle but little time to think beyond the job. But as she fought for her life she had a beyond-body experience which convinced her that there was a bigger picture. She was fortunate in marrying a man sympathetic to her need to give up her career and start again. The couple moved abroad and settled in Spain where she paints, writes, makes furniture and has discovered unexpected talent as a singer. She tells even the most harrowing part of her story with an honesty that shirks nothing.

Wildlife Showcase
BBC2, 8.30pm

It seems no part of the former Yugoslavia can escape its violent past, even in a wildlife film. But central to this report from the river Soca in Slovenia is a story not of the recent conflict but of a bloody encounter during the First World War. In 1915, the valley through which the Soca runs became one of the war's bloodiest battlefields. Exhausted and hungry troops were forced to take what food they could and the Soca's fish stocks were devastated. As a result, one of the glories of the river, came close to extinction. The film shows how Jose Ocvirk, a local fish biologist, saved the species by breeding it in captivity and follows the trout's continuing battle for survival against such non-human predators as snakes, otters and brown bears.

Reputations: Simon Wiesenthal
BBC2, 9.00pm

For the first time, this series deals with a subject who is still living and able to reply to criticisms made of him. Reputations is in the business of reassessing public figures and often succeeds in revisiting them downwards. But Wiesenthal, for half a century the obsessive pursuer of Nazi war criminals, comes out largely intact. Yes, he has a



Cowboy Monty Roberts (BBC1, 10.00pm)

huge ego and enjoys publicity. Yes, his activities have landed him in acrimony, even with natural allies such as the World Jewish Congress. His tactics have not always been clever. But for a Polish Jew who spent four years in Nazi concentration camps his passion is understandable and it has been mostly well directed. Sackia Baron's film carefully traces out Wiesenthal's role in the capture of Adolf Eichmann and explains his refusal to join the condemnation of Kurt Waldheim's alleged Nazi past.

QED: Monty Roberts. A Real Horse Whisperer
BBC1, 10.00pm

A lot of people have been killed trying to break mustangs, we are told, so Monty Roberts is putting himself on the line. We met Roberts in a previous QED film. He is the Californian cowboy who tames wild horses not by the usual means of rousing them up in ropes but by talking to them. He can get unbroken horses to accept a saddle and bridle within 30 minutes. But the mustang, a specially wild and dangerous animal, is something else. The key to Roberts's method is to interpret a horse's body language and mimic it to gain trust. John Groom's film takes us to the Californian desert for the confrontation. The early skirmishes are discouraging. But a man who has tamed not only horses, but more than 40 delinquent children using similar methods, is not going to give up easily. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

My Uncle Freddie
Radio 4, 2.00pm

This new three-part series offers more evidence that Radio 4 is indeed broadening its geographical base so as to introduce a greater variety of voices. Not that the network has ever been slow to plunder the regions for good work but I sense that more of it is being encouraged now than was the case a few years ago. My Uncle Freddie evokes Tyneside in the 1930s and is about the relationship between a child, Lecky, and Uncle Freddie, a hero to Lecky and a weaver of wonderful tales. These stories become woven into the fabric of Lecky's otherwise dismal environment in Jarrow. In the first story Lecky and Uncle Freddie, played by Gareth Brown and Shaun Prendergast, are out fishing when they save the Prince of Wales from drowning.

Blood on the Floor
Radio 3, 7.30pm

Any work described by the critics as "adventurous" is unlikely to be aimed at those whose musical listening does not encompass anything written in the past 150 years. Blood on the Floor by Mark Anthony-Turnage was in fact first heard in London last spring and this is its first broadcast. The title comes from the painting by Francis Bacon and the work itself attempts to explore drug addiction and the tense, violent atmosphere of the inner city, but if this suggests that Blood on the Floor is entirely hard-edged that would be quite the wrong impression: there are also tender and emotional passages. The work is performed by Ensemble Modern, plus soloists include the guitarist John Scofield, Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 9.00am Simon Mayo 11.30am Radio 1 Roadshow 12.00pm Newsbeat 12.45pm John Peel 1.30pm Mary Ann Hobbs 8.15pm Newsbeat 8.30pm Evening Session 8.30pm Global Update 8.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Claire Suggett 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00am Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 8.30am Ken Bruce 1.30pm Jimmy Young 1.30pm Double Threat 3.00pm Ed Sheeran 5.30pm Jimmy Young 7.30pm News 8.30pm News 9.00pm News 9.30pm News 10.00pm News 10.30pm News 11.00pm News 11.30pm News 12.00pm News 12.30pm News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 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An enjoyable drive, but who was steering?

Please excuse me, while I take a sledgehammer to dent a very inoffensive little nut. It's Driving School (BBC1), you see, it's still worrying me. Yes, yes — very funny, huge ratings and wasn't it wonderful last night when Maureen grabbed her examiner by the ears to kiss him when she finally passed at the eighth attempt. But it is — and here comes the sledgehammer — the future of documentary-making?

There are three ways of making a documentary. The first is how most of us imagine they are made. A film-maker chooses his or her subject and in the process of filming it, discovers what it's all about and what a lot of people think about it. This is objective film-making and strikes most of us as honest.

The second way involves the film-maker choosing a subject and deciding what they want to say before they shoot a single frame.

They, too, then do a lot of filming, rejecting anything that doesn't fit the original thesis and keeping everything that does. This is subjective film-making and strikes most documentary-makers as powerful.

The third approach, however, is the one favoured by Driving School. This involves the film-maker choosing a subject and then deciding that — hang it, life's too short for either one or two. I'm going to tell them all what to do and, if they don't look out, what to say. This, too, is technical, is known as makey-appy film-making — great fun when the subject is learning to drive, but worrying for anything more heavyweight.

Just how much of Driving School was staged for the cameras was difficult to tell, because Francesca Joseph, the director, had chosen her cast with exquisite care. But the number of times not one but two perfectly focused, wobble-

free cameras just happened to be there when something happened, suggested quite a lot.

They were there when Maureen, taking time-off from quoting Thomas the Tank Engine in the police urinals, was having a little cry in the Lada — just as one her former instructors drove past. They were there in church when Maureen's husband just happened to ask her devout instructor whether he ever prayed for pupils before a test. They were there when Danny, recently dumped by Gillian from Preston, decided that his life had to go on. Alas, the poor lad will never know whether the new object of his affections agreed to go out because she fancied him or because she fancied being on television. Yes, the cameras were there for that, too.

But, whatever I think of the technique, the result was wonder-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

ful television. The only thing I never understood was why all those police drivers were in it. Had they escaped from somebody else's documentary?

On paper it had looked promising — a professional builder visits alleged DIY experts and shows them how to do the job properly. It sounded confrontational and fun. On the screen, however, it looked like a fly-on-the-plasterboard series about DIY bores which hadn't really worked, so somebody had roped in George Herbert, master builder, to see if that helped.

It might have, if better editing had allowed George to be in three places at once, but it didn't. As a result, his sole contribution last night was showing an inexperienced couple how to lay quarry tiles on a perfectly level floor. Not even a master builder could pretend that it was difficult and to be fair he didn't, which may have been honest but made for very dull television.

Over on Channel 5 (now there's a phrase you don't see very often) Plastic Fantastic continued, with a

popular variation of documentary method two: tell your interviewees one thing and then make a film that is exactly the opposite. As a result, all sorts of slightly tight-faced women lined up to wax lyrical about the benefits of plastic surgery, while extended footage of the surgery itself eloquently put the argument against.

What this programme is doing this side of the watershed, I have no idea — perhaps children are more resilient than television critics when it comes to watching faces being peeled off and tugged up into the hairline. But what was really awful about this particular episode was that we had to see all the blood and yucky yellow stuff twice.

"Because Sue is a nurse we let her view footage of her surgery," announced Louise Lombard's unfortunately calm narration. Sue may be a nurse but she seemed to feel

exactly the same as me as she watched in part two what we had seen in part one. "I hadn't really appreciated the extent of the incision," she said weakly. "I feel as if I could faint." The film was directed by Douglas Churnside, which at least brought a smile to my now rather pale face.

Finally, William Shatner turned out to be just about the only person I had heard of as Channel 4's new but definitely familiar science fiction quiz, Space Cadets got off the ground with two teams of alleged sci-fi celebrities and definitely not enough in the way of introductions from Greg Proops, the chairman. Interestingly, Shatner had clearly refused to wear the Star Trek-style uniforms that the rest of them were wearing, but energetically joined in what passed for pass as everybody worked for a hard-to-get jokes out of old film clips. It was humour, Jim, and definitely as we know it.

BBC1

8.00am Business Breakfast (57051)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (72055)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (72055)
9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (7181284)

9.50 Kilroy (7181284)
10.30 Who'll Do the Pudding? (36451)
11.00 News (7) and weather (705210)

11.05 Due South A restaurateur's son is kidnapped by gangsters (7) (7181284)
11.50 Good Neighbours (2056983)

12.00 News (7) and weather (858603)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (8233351)
12.35 Neighbours (7) (8181284)

1.00 News (7) and weather (73142)
1.30 Regional News (2493551)
1.40 Perry Mason: The Case of the

Reckless Romeo (1993) An actress is accused of murdering a talk-show host. With Barbara Hale and Geraldine. Directed by Christian Nyby II (7) (858719)

3.10 Outcry (840332)
4.00 Popeye (7) (7343974) 4.10 The Thundercats (730158) 4.30 Morph TV with Tony Hart (4179055) 4.35 Prince of Atlantis (7) (858500) 5.00 Newsround (7) (7101569) 5.10 Bright Sparks (489581)

5.35 Neighbours (7) (7181284)
6.00 News (7) and weather (871)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (351)

7.00 Animal Hospital Revealed The last of the series returns to Wipacade Zoo for an update on the Spooky deer and the giraffe born in front of the cameras. Plus the artistic elephant and the yolk which couldn't fly (7) (8158)

7.30 Hot Gadgets A new electric toothbrush, a voice-activated CD changer, an eye-operated camcorder and a phone which can help out in the kitchen (7) (535)

8.00 The National Lottery Live Boyzone Join Carol Smilie (7) (422245)

8.15 Selection Box: Portridge Celebrity fans discuss the popular comedy (24516)

8.50 Polite of View (7) (810322)
9.00 News (7) regional news and weather (8903) 9.20 National Lottery Update (739210)

9.30 Men Behaving Badly Tony develops a sudden interest in astrology (48239)

10.00 QED: Monty Roberts — A Real Horse Whisperer Californian cowboy Monty Roberts has a remarkable gift for taming horses (7) (158790)

10.30 The X-Files: Die Hard Die Verletzt. Scully and Mulder uncover evidence of black magic, sexual abuse and demonic sacrifice at the local high school (7) (10581)

11.35 Shakti and Jonesy Mel and Griff relish the opening credits to Goldfinger (7) (538871)

12.05am The Night They Raided Minsky's (1968) Brit Eddard plays an Anish film who defies her strict religion and dominating father to become romantically involved with a burlesque performer. Also with Jason Roberts. Directed by William Friedkin (65543)

1.40 Weather (223755)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a programme. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Zenith Electronics Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: History of Maths: Non-Euclidean Geometry (708833)
6.25 Design for People (7961239) 6.50 Clinical Trials (278993)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8930448)
7.30 The Moonies (705808) 7.55 Ach-3 (705808) 8.20 Christopher Crocodile (330784) 8.25 Johnson and Friends (343534) 8.35 The Record (247868)

9.00 Cartoon (582082) 9.10 The Phil Silvers Show (1720142) 9.35 Great Mysteries and Myths of the 20th Century (240784) 10.00 Teletubbies (32993)

10.30 Saint Joan (1957) with Jean Seberg, Aniston Woodcock, Richard Widmark, John Gielgud and Richard Todd. George Bernard Shaw's play, adapted for the big screen by Graham Greene, directed by Otto Preminger (4839326)

12.20pm A-Z of Food (858061) 12.30 Working Lunch (20245) 1.00 Joshua Jones (251955) 1.10 Vaguer: The Unforgotten Cowboy (590614) 1.40 Blockbusters (5940764) 2.05 Australia Wide (820529) 2.25 Sports and Music (1831239) 2.50 News (7) (1837326) 3.55 Westminster with Nick Ross (549551) 3.55 News (7) (2457332)

4.00 The Patsy (1984) Sapphic comedy, directed by and starring Jerry Lewis (97647081)

5.40 The Flying Vets (251087)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (7) (811852)

6.45 International Golf: The Open Preview of this year's tournament (843784)

7.30 The Day That Changed My Life: Stranger in Paradise (1/8) (7) (77)

8.00 One Foot in the Past The dispute over the future of an old cinema in Devon; exploring the remains of London's River Fleet; and Raine, Comtesse de Chambour, Louis Cheltenham (3448)

8.30 Wildlife Showcase: The Soca river in Slovenia which is home to the giant marble trout (7) (9055)

9.00 Reputations: Simon Wiesenthal — The Man Who Hunted Nazis A profile of the dedicated Nazi hunter (7) (1177)

10.00 Step into the Sun (7) (43332)
10.28 Talking Tats (20513)

10.30 Newsworld (201897)
11.15 Gaytime TV The guests include Ned Sherrin and Chastity Bone, the daughter of Sonny and Cher (53245)

11.35 Weather (315142)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (32291)

12.30am Learning Zone: OX: Chemistry 1.00 Chemistry 1.30 Chemistry 2.00 Star Gazing (77456) 4.00 English Heritage (36524) 4.30 Unicorn in the Classroom (5814) 5.00 Basic Skills (13104) 5.30 Voluntary Matters (34920)

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BBC2

6.00am GMTV (5975844)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (7) (1808003)
9.55 Judge Judy (4512332)

10.20 News (7) (8314429)
10.25 Regional News (7) (8333500)

10.30 How to Murder a Millionaire (1990) with Joan Rivers, Alex Rocco and Morgan Fairchild Comedy about a paranoid Beverly Hills housewife's attempts to avoid her murderous husband. Directed by Paul Schneider (4926852)

12.30 Regional News (7) (8552887)
12.35 News (7) and weather (8917535)

12.55 Shortland Street (8292326) 1.24 HTV Crime Stories (8712871) 1.25 Home and Away (7) (8752487) 1.50 Look and Cook (7) (5688974) 2.20 Star Trek: Voyager (7) (5719142)

3.20 News (7) (1023332)
3.30 Tots TV (7) (4331177) 3.40 Giggles Allsorts (7) (1542500) 3.50 Cartoon Time (2452887) 3.55 Oscar and Friends (7) (2451158) 4.00 The Animal Shelf (4257887) 4.15 Chatterbox Poles (7) (7851897) 4.25 Art Attack (4250874) 4.45 Behind the Last Word (7) (858852)

5.10 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (7) (175535)

5.40 News (7) and weather (122351)
6.00 Home and Away (7) (793448)

6.25 HTV Weather (859429)
6.30 The West Tonight (7) (719)

7.00 Emmerdale Emma has a tense confrontation with Ger's father (7) (8282)

7.30 Coronation Street Alma finds herself in the public eye (7) (603)

8.00 Inspector Morse: The Ghost in the Machine When valuable erotic paintings are stolen from a stately home, Morse and Lewis find themselves delving into the minds and morals of the aristocracy (7) (7) Followed by the National Lottery results (8055)

10.00 News (7) and weather (89158) 10.30 Regional News (487933)

10.40 Gayle's World Brenda Gilbody's guests include "I" girls, Doreen from Common Cents and the Gossips (7) (85500)

11.10 Live at Jingleworld with Mark Hurst, Ricky Grover and Russell Peters (7) (742852)

11.10 New York News (935516)
12.35am Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (388369)

1.00 A Father's Revenge (1987) with Brian Dennehy, Joanna Cassidy and Helen Paton. A father is distraught when he learns his air stewardess daughter is being held by a group of terrorists. Directed by John Herzfeld (492123)

2.45 The Big Match Replayed (493388)
3.30 Customs Classified (7) (8204475)
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7.30 Coronation Street Alma finds herself in the public eye (7) (603)

8.00 Inspector Morse: The Ghost in the Machine When valuable erotic paintings are stolen from a stately home, Morse and Lewis find themselves delving into the minds and morals of the aristocracy (7) (7) Followed by the National Lottery results (8055)

10.00 News (7) and weather (89158) 10.30 Regional News (487933)

10.40 Gayle's World Brenda Gilbody's guests include "I" girls, Doreen from Common Cents and the Gossips (7) (85500)

11.10 Live at Jingleworld with Mark Hurst, Ricky Grover and Russell Peters (7) (742852)

11.10 New York News (935516)
12.35am Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (388369)

1.00 A Father's Revenge (1987) with Brian Dennehy, Joanna Cassidy and Helen Paton. A father is distraught when he learns his air stewardess daughter is being held by a group of terrorists. Directed by John Herzfeld (492123)

2.45 The Big Match Replayed (493388)
3.30 Customs Classified (7) (8204475)
4.15 Cool Vibes (5271949) 4.30 Time, the Place (7) (22340) 5.00 Coronation Street (7) (71730) 5.30 News

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HTV

6.00am GMTV (5975844)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (7) (1808003)
9.55 Judge Judy (4512332)

10.20 News (7) (8314429)
10.25 Regional News (7) (8333500)

10.30 How to Murder a Millionaire (1990) with Joan Rivers, Alex Rocco and Morgan Fairchild Comedy about a paranoid Beverly Hills housewife's attempts to avoid her murderous husband. Directed by Paul Schneider (4926852)

12.30 Regional News (7) (8552887)
12.35 News (7) and weather (8917535)

12.55 Shortland Street (8292326) 1.24 HTV Crime Stories (8712871) 1.25 Home and Away (7) (8752487) 1.50 Look and Cook (7) (5688974) 2.20 Star Trek: Voyager (7) (5719142)

3.20 News (7) (1023332)
3.30 Tots TV (7) (4331177) 3.40 Giggles Allsorts (7) (1542500) 3.50 Cartoon Time (2452887) 3.55 Oscar and Friends (7) (2451158) 4.00 The Animal Shelf (4257887) 4.15 Chatterbox Poles (7) (7851897) 4.25 Art Attack (4250874) 4.45 Behind the Last Word (7) (858852)

5.10 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (7) (175535)

5.40 News (7) and weather (122351)
6.00 Home and Away (7) (793448)

6.25 HTV Weather (859429)
6.30 The West Tonight (7) (719)



RACING 43

Jones sets out stall as new Tote chairman

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JULY 16 1997

CYCLING 45

Ullrich claims yellow jersey in Tour de France



Scotland's champion ideally prepared to fulfil great expectations at Troon

Montgomery feels right at home

By John Hopkins
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

YEARS ago in the Ayrshire town of Troon, a little boy would come out of a sturdy flat-fronted house on South Beach, the road nearest the Firth of Clyde, and turn left to walk the children's course at Royal Troon Golf Club. Golf was not the only passion of our chubby sporting hero. Later, he would mature into an attacking batsman and a fast bowler with a powerful boot on the rugby field.

The land on which our prodigy took his first golfing swipes is at present covered by enough tentage to house an army on the eve of a medieval battle. The little boy, though, remembers it clearly enough to bring a smile to his face. "We had great fun there," Colin Montgomery said.



Tee-off times 46
Simon Barnes 46

"Me, my brother, my parents, too. They have flattened it to provide land for the tented village. In those days I used to walk to the course. I couldn't get lost. It was only 150 yards away."

Tomorrow, Montgomery sets out on an adventure every bit as great as those he took all those years ago. Europe's No 1 player for the past four years, and ranked fourth in the world, behind Tiger Woods, Ernie Els and Greg Norman, starts the 126th Open Championship in the most relaxed frame of mind and with his form as good as it could possibly be. Two victories in Europe and a second place in the US Open in the past eight weeks indicate that his game has reached a level he has rarely, if ever, reached before



Montgomery, smiling and relaxed yesterday, believes he has never had a better chance of success than in this Open Championship. Photograph: Marc Aspland

and maintained it for longer than he dared hope.

Thus, the ultimate prize of victory in the Open awaits Montgomery at the club where his father has been secretary for 11 years and will remain so until retiring at the end of next month. "Since I heard seven years ago that the Open was coming here in

1997, this is the major championship I have been looking forward to," Montgomery said. "This, to me, is home, this is where my family are, where my wife is from and where my father lives and works. This is it as far as major championships are concerned for me."

Yet, to hoist the oldest prize in professional golf above his head on Sunday evening, and perhaps to say "wow!" as Tom Lehman did so expressively last year, will require Montgomery to put behind him a dismal record in recent Open championships. Four times in the past five years, Montgomery has failed to progress beyond the first two rounds. It has become one of golf's debating points: why can't Montgomery do better in the Open?

Montgomery believes that

the poor weather in tournaments immediately before the Open has not helped his swing. Yet there is a suspicion that Montgomery needs the reference points of an inland course, such as those on which the US Open is played and on which he has done so well, rather than the barren, usually treeless landscape of an Open course.

"There is no secret that I know my way around here and obviously I am feeling quite confident about performing better than I have in the past," Montgomery said. "I have got to go out there and prove myself. I am OK physically and I am OK mentally. The question is: 'Can I cope with the pressure?' The shots I have been hitting have been good. I am playing the best golf of my career. I am hitting it straight off the tee, my irons

are quite accurate and I am putting very well right now."

"That is the secret. You can't score what I have been scoring recently without holding puts. You know that out of a field of 150 someone is going to put very well. Not just for one day, but for four days and that someone is going to be someone in the top ten in the world. I have got to make sure it's me and not somebody else."

As Montgomery spoke, clouds as grey as battleships had taken up station overhead. Rain fell from time to time in sudden, vicious showers. The wind had swung from the northwest to the southwest and suddenly the best sort of Open weather was arriving as if on cue.

In this grey town, Montgomery's name is on everyone's lips — not only because of his associations with Troon.

"He is playing awfully well right now," Tiger Woods said. "He has an amazing record in major championships. It is just a matter of time before he breaks through and wins one. He is knocking on the door in practically every one."

Nick Price said: "I think Monty is going to play well. He didn't peak last week as he sometimes does." Steve Elkington, who beat Montgomery in the play-off for the 1995 US PGA championship, was another who favoured the Scot's chances. "Everyone over on our side of the Atlantic has considerable respect for Colin's play," Elkington, who sent Montgomery a fax of commiseration after beating him in Los Angeles two years ago, said. "He has great talent. His time will come."

"That booing at the US

Open and my barracking he suffers over there only comes because American spectators see him as such a real threat to their players."

Montgomery said he feels under less pressure now that he is playing well than when his game was at a less accomplished level.

The fact remains, however, that the Open this year is his biggest test, one that will examine his resolve, as much as his skill. And for his sake, he has to succeed this time. There can be no more excuses.

Hollioake selected by England at youth team level

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BEN HOLLIOAKE, who has captured public imagination like no teenage cricketer for a generation, bringing growing demands for his inclusion at Test level, must instead return to the nursery slopes of his international game for his next representative honours. Hollioake was named yesterday in a 13-strong England Under-19 party to take on Zimbabwe next month. Significantly, however, the selection applies only to the two one-day internationals at Southampton and Hove that begin the programme, leaving open the possibility that Hollioake will be released from one or more of the four day games.

Surrey, his county, believe strongly that both Hollioake and Alex Tudor, the fast bowler, have outgrown age-group cricket and are better served playing in the county championship.

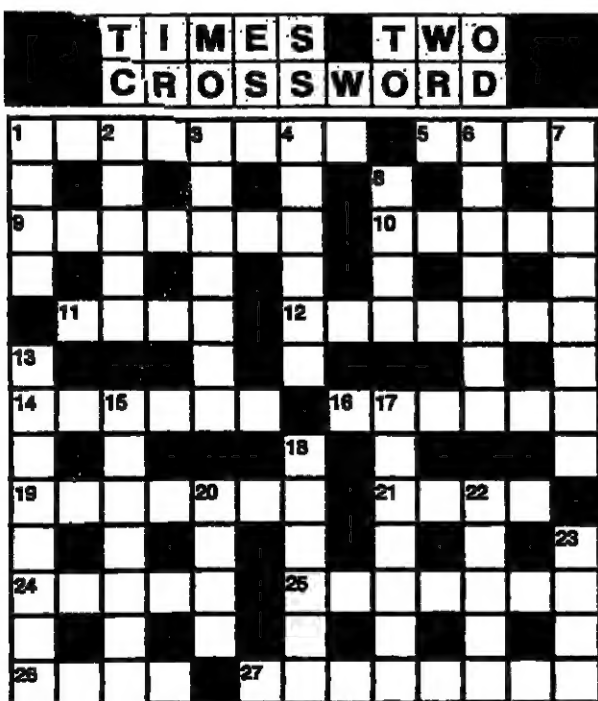
Similar claims have been made on behalf of Owais Shah, by Middlesex, and David Sales, by Northamptonshire. Both are also included in a squad, which ought to be too good for a country whose own age-group structure is still in its infancy. The team is to be led by Andrew Flintoff, of Lancashire, and ten of the chosen group have already played at first-class level.

The view of at least one senior England selector, Mike Gatting, is at variance with that of Micky Stewart, director of excellence for the England and Wales Cricket Board, a strong believer in the agreed policy that age-group sides must always be favoured. Concessions, however, seem likely to be made.

Hollioake alone of those in this party is almost certain to be involved with the senior England side on overseas tours this winter. While it is important for the stature of under-19 cricket that this tally, made up of a series, his cause, and that of the England team, cannot be furthered by keeping him there.

UNDER-19 SQUAD: A Flintoff (Lancs), O Shah (Middlesex), S Sales (Northamptonshire), D Sales (Northamptonshire), D Tudor (Surrey), P Farnham (Worcestershire), A Tudor (Surrey), P Farnham (Worcestershire), C Gower (Gloucestershire), C Gower (Gloucestershire), R Sedgeman (Yorkshire).

Getty's idyll, page 44
Chance for Essex, page 44



No 1147

- ACROSS
- Computer info store (8)
 - Rabbit's tail (6)
 - Sedative soothing remark (7)
 - African country; Voltaire play (5)
 - Gaiter; oyster spawn (4)
 - Come to understand (7)
 - Space vehicle reprimand (8)
 - Consented (6)
 - Official journal (7)
 - (Wood) cut (4)
 - Child martyr; her Eve, Keats (5)
 - Shorten (lit. word) (7)
 - Row (eg of seats) (4)
- DOWN
- Something owed (4)
 - MIL. Scout group (5)
 - Easily snapped (7)
 - Fortified wine (6)
 - Style of cookery (7)
 - Surfacing-diver risk (3,5)
 - Pound; OT book (4)
 - Sweet-smelling (8)
 - Paul —, post-impressionist (7)
 - Of the stomach (7)
 - Remember: summon back (8)
 - Chore; job (4)
 - Long-legged water bird (5)
 - Improve; repair (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1146

ACROSS: 1 Attendant 6 Age 8 Stoical 9 Rede 10 Gide 11 Psalmody 13 Ideals 14 Sarcasm 17 Mystique 18 Gaze 20 Maori 21 Promise 22 Aid 23 Godparent

DOWN: 1 Assegai 2 Two-edged sword 3 Nick 4 At last 5 Thriller 6 Authoritative 7 Enemy 12 Flailing 15 Mae West 16 Jumped 17 Mamba 19 Sofa

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1142

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Lump 3 Handicap 4 Teddy 10 Gavotte 11 Tellers 12 Avon 14 Defect 16 Zenith 18 Brice 19 Antique 22 Aquatic 23 Crime 24 Schedule 25 Okay

DOWN: 1 Latitude 2 Muddle through 4 August 5 Deviate 6 Cut to the quick 7 Peel 8 Hype 13 Greenery 15 Sweetest 17 Marcel 20 Tact 21 Pass

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is U Ramachandran, Minister Court, Darlington, West Midlands.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is H Rhodes, Glendower Park, Adel, Leeds.

All flights subject to availability.

Black reacts furiously to his world championships snub

By David Powell
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ROGER BLACK yesterday turned on the Great Britain athletics selectors who denied him a place in the 400 metres at the world championships in Athens next month, but it was an off-guard comment by Jamie Baulch, who has displaced Black, that best highlighted the panel's hasty decision. "I could not believe it when I got the letter in the post this morning," Baulch said. Small wonder.

The sensible path to take, after the apparently inconclusive evidence of the British trials in Birmingham on Sunday, was to wait and see how Black performed in Hechtel, Belgium, this Saturday. Iwan Thomas and Mark Richardson, first and second at the trials, were guaranteed selection, but the third place was left to the selectors' discretion. Baulch was third in the trial, but recorded an unexceptional 45.02sec.

Black missed the race, excusing himself after suffering a viral infection, but was prepared, with an extra week's training, to reveal his form in Hechtel. However, Malcolm Arnold, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) performance director and one of six selectors, said yesterday: "The selection committee felt they could resolve it yesterday on the evidence before them."

So Black, less than two

months after being named as the Great Britain men's team captain and within a year of winning two silver medals at the Atlanta Olympic Games, in which he was Britain's most successful athlete, was unceremoniously dumped. When the team was announced yesterday, Black was named only for the 4 x 400 metres relay.

Black, who led the building of a solid wall of industrial relations between the British Athletics Association and the BAF, began to pick-axe the bricks yesterday. "Not one of the selectors had the common courtesy to pick up the phone and inform me of their decision," Black said. "I had to find out for myself. I find that absolutely staggering."

"I feel they have not shown a shred of decency. I am very angry. It is bad man-management."



Black angry

If it is going to happen to me, as an Olympic silver medal-winner and team captain, it could happen to anybody. I would not take a place from Jamie if I did not think I could do better than he could. He is running OK, but he has not broken 45 seconds this year, which I did 12 times last year."

Although Phil Green, the team manager and a selector, said that he had spoken with Mike Whittingham, Black's coach, on Monday and asked whether he should ring the athlete, to be told "don't bother", Whittingham denied that. However, David Cropper, the chairman of selectors, should have taken it upon himself to inform Black immediately, bypassing Whittingham.

Black said he would not now go to Hechtel. "What is the point?" he said. He plans to take his place in the relay team, but will be an uncomfortable captaincy for him as, in his manager and chief coach, he has to work closely with two of the selectors who voted against him.

It was a unanimous decision to select Baulch, the British indoor record-holder. Given Black's poor form this season — he won at the European Cup, but has not run quicker than 45.63sec — it must be doubtful that he would have run fast in Hechtel.

Arnold insisted that selectors had stuck to the selection policy that highlighted that

"current form will be an important selection criterion". He also made an absurd suggestion that he would ask the International Amateur Athletic Federation for an invitation for Black to run the 400 metres in Athens along the lines of those issued to all defending world champions.

Baulch, at 24, may have his best years ahead of him but, compared with Britain's new look sprinters squad, he is something of a veteran. Without Linford Christie on the team for an international championship for the first time in 13 years, Britain's main sprinters now are not long out of their teens. Ian Mackie, Darren Campbell and Marlon Devonish, chosen for the 100 metres, average 22 years of age. In the 200 metres — 13 years after the last British team for a global championships was named without John Regis — Doug Walker, Oususu Doko and Julian Golding, average age 23, are chosen.

None can be expected to make a final, but at least Britain will be represented, which is more than can be said for the 10,000 metres. Such is the paucity of talent that, once Jon Brown and Liz McColgan had made up their minds not to seek selection and Rob Deunmark had opted for the 5,000 metres, there was nobody left worth picking.

Britain team, page 45

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